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## POLAND AND PRUSSIA.

THE Polish question is not only the question of the day, but it is not at all impossible that it may become the question of the period, by leading to such changes in central Europe as cannot fail, sooner or later, to involve the five great Powers in serious complications. It is very easy to say that England ought to keep out of it; but England is already in it, in so far that she has already spoken, through her Foreign Minister, in a tone of reproof, both to Russia the lion, and Prussia the jackal (for, as jackals do not attach themselves to bears, we are obliged to speak of Russia in this case as a lion out of respect to natural history). Prussia has also been recently compared by the *Cologne Gazette* to the "hangman's assistant." "The expression is very energetic," says the *Indépendance Belge*. So it may be, but it was not invented by the *Cologne Gazette*. Schiller, in "Don Carlos," says: "There is something viler than the executioner—namely, the executioner's servant." Every Polish writer, and every one who has thought seriously of the mean part played by Prussia for a century past in connection with Poland, has made the same comparison. If Prussia had not been the meanest country in Europe, and Frederic the meanest and vilest man that Prussia ever produced, Mr. Carlyle, with his love of paradox, would doubtless not have selected him for his great historical hero. As it is, he certainly displays great talent in repre-



MAJOR-GENERAL JOSEPH HOOKER, THE NEW COMMANDER OF THE FEDERAL ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BRADY, OF NEW YORK.)

senting the most despicable tyrant of modern times as a Sovereign worthy the regard of the subjects of the freest Government the world has ever known.

But bad things may yet happen to the country of "Friedrich," as Mr. Carlyle calls the King, who, with an affectation as remarkable as that of his biographer, signed himself not "Friedrich," nor "Frédéric," but "Fédéric," without the "r." There is yet some chance that Prussia may be reduced to her natural limits before Mr. Carlyle's last volume goes to press; and, as his admitted reason for admiring Prussia as a State has hitherto been that her career has been wonderfully successful, we may expect his admiration to vanish if she should suddenly lose both the left bank of the Rhine and the Grand Duchy of Posen. In that case we might expect Mr. Carlyle to conclude his entertaining but untruthful work by declaring that, after all, the Hohenzollerns would have done well to walk in the paths of ordinary decency and honour, if not "in Sunday pumps" and "clear-starched into consciousness of the moral sublime;" but all this must, of course, depend entirely on the result of the attack which France appears to be preparing to make on Prussia. It will only be a diplomatic attack in the first instance; but this, in spite of the constant and notorious readiness of Prussia to bow low before a superior force, may lead to an invasion which, whether merited or not, will certainly not have been unprovoked. France, as the representative



THE FRENCH IN MEXICO.—CHASSEURS D'AFRIQUE CHARGING GENERAL ALVAREZ' CAVALRY AT SAN ANDRES.



to "Gallia," has a certain show of right of the left bank of the Rhine. If the map of Europe is ever made out afresh, on ethnological and ancient historical principles, Gaul must certainly be given up to the French as far as the Rhine. The Rhine was recognised as marking the boundary between Gaulish and German territory in the time of Tacitus, and, what is far more to the point, it was acknowledged as the natural division-line between France and Germany in 1814. But for the return of Napoleon from Elba and the campaign of Waterloo, France might have retained the left bank of the Rhine until this moment. It was made over to Prussia, not because it was looked upon as Prussian land—which it certainly is not, though inhabited by Germans—but because it was thought desirable to keep it out of French hands and to weaken France in every possible manner. If, however, Prussia now gives France cause for making just and honourable war upon her, we must leave the country of "Fédéric" to its fate, even though we may not give it a downward kick ourselves. Fighting in a just cause, under first-rate Generals and with greatly superior numbers, Prussia might, no doubt, be able to stand for a certain time against France. But if France, resting upon her right as one of the Powers that signed the Treaty of Vienna to see that the Poles are governed as Poles, and not as Germans or Russians—if France do call Prussia to account for her conduct to her own Polish subjects, no one in England can do otherwise than applaud; while, if she orders Prussia off Russo-Polish territory, she will be performing a duty in which, it is to be hoped and may now fairly be assumed, England will be quite ready to assist her.

In the meanwhile the Polish question is, of course, a most delicate one for England to deal with. We cannot be guilty of the meanness of avoiding it for that reason; but it is quite certain that we have nothing in a material or commercial point of view to gain by mixing ourselves up with it. France, on the other hand, if she goes to war on behalf of Poland, will have something more than the pleasure of doing a good action to fight for. She will not make peace with Russia until she gets the long-coveted "left bank," and it will be easy enough for her to make peace on those terms. It would not be generous, it would simply be foolish, to imagine that France would not throw Poland over at any time in order to suit her own ends. She did this when she sacrificed the Polish legions under the Directory, by sending them to suppress the insurrection of slaves in St. Domingo; when she made over a portion of Polish territory to Russia, in 1807, under the Empire; and again when, in 1809, she formally consented, in a convention signed by Napoleon and Alexander I., never, in any official document, to make use of the name of Poland.

It is very remarkable, by-the-way, that the word Poland does not occur in the strongest article in favour of the Poles that the French official journals have yet published. The "Duchy of Warsaw" is named instead. Now, the Duchy of Warsaw was formed in 1807 by the Poles and French combined out of the territory seized by Prussia at the first, second, and third partitions. It included Posen and the present kingdom of Poland, to which Galicia was added two years afterwards. It would not be difficult to reconstitute the Duchy of Warsaw, on condition of leaving to Russia the Polish provinces which she has incorporated with her empire. That would not settle the Polish question; but it would be a great blessing for some twelve millions of Poles to have once more a country which they could really call their own. The other Poles now regarded as Russians might, and doubtless would, be sacrificed by France, if, as a reward, Russia would consent to let her establish herself on the Rhine. In any case Prussia is threatened just now on two sides—on the one by the Poles, on the other by the French. She has deliberately placed herself in this difficult position, and must get out of it the best way she can.

#### MAJOR-GENERAL HOOKER.

MAJOR-GENERAL JOSEPH HOOKER, the new commander of the army of the Potomac, was born in the town of Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1815. His father was a farmer and drover, and had the reputation of being a kind-hearted, honest man, but he had none of those qualities of mind which his son has since exhibited; but his mother was noted among her neighbours for brilliancy of intellect and great energy. Joseph was the youngest of four children, and, during his boyish days, was glad to get work at hoeing corn for 12½ cents a day. He always insisted, however, much to the disgust of his playmates, that he was fitted for better work than that, and, when the opportunity was offered to him to attend school at an academy in the vicinity of his home, he readily availed himself of it. For some reason an assistant teacher in the institution was impressed with the idea that his pupil had a military turn of mind, and persuaded him to accept an appointment which he procured for him to a cadetship in the military academy at West Point. Hooker did not figure prominently at the academy, where he graduated number twenty-eight in his class, which included several officers who have made names for themselves in both armies since the outbreak of the war. After serving as adjutant at West Point for about two years, he joined the army in Mexico as aide-de-camp to General Harner, and was rapidly promoted for gallantry and zeal, first to a captaincy, then to a majority, and subsequently to a lieutenant-colonelcy; the scenes of his exploits being Monterey, the National Bridge, and Chapultepec. On the conclusion of the Mexican War, General Hooker retired from the army, and soon afterwards emigrated to California. When the rebellion broke out he was living on his farm in the last-mentioned State, and immediately hastened east to offer his services in any capacity to Mr. Lincoln. Before he left the army he had in some way incurred General Scott's dislike (on account, it is said, of his being given to habits of drinking), and he found on his arrival at Washington that the veteran had not forgotten him, for he encountered obstacles to his appointment to any position at every turn. Finally, he was about to abandon the attempt to re-enter the service in despair, and called upon the President to announce his decision, and express his bitter disappointment; for, having meanwhile passed through the battle of Bull Run, he felt that he had a right to more consideration than had been shown him. Upon entering the reception-room, his friend introduced General Hooker as "Captain." Speaking up promptly, he corrected him. "Lieutenant-Colonel Hooker, Mr. President, of the regular army. Let me tell you that I have been here for two months, begging the privilege of serving my country in any capacity. I have met nothing but refusals at every turn; and

now I am going back to my farm in California, and I have called to pay my respects before leaving. I wish to say but one word. I was in the battle of Bull Run, and let me tell you, Mr. President, that I am a better officer than any you had on that field." This blunt speech struck the President's fancy precisely. He promised the Lieutenant-Colonel a full colonelcy on the spot, and within a week he was at the head of a regiment. Not many days after he was in command of a brigade stationed upon the Lower Potomac, and continually declared to his friends, and to all with whom he came in contact, that he was fitted to command the army of the Potomac; that he was predestined for the position; that he would have it in time; and that he would lead that force to victory. Whether Hooker is justified in this boast or not time must show; but with such men as Lee, Jackson, and Stuart to contend against, he is not likely to lack opportunities of trying his metal.

When the army of the Potomac moved to the peninsula Hooker accompanied them in charge of a division. In the contest at Williamsburg his division bravely stood the brunt of the battle, the men of the Excelsior Brigade actually being mowed down as they stood up in line. At Fair Oaks the men again showed their valour, and the General his fighting qualities. In the various minor contests Hooker took his part, and bravely went through with his share of the seven days' fight. When McClellan's army was placed under the command of General Pope we find the names of "Fighting Joe Hooker" and the late General Kearney mentioned together in the thickest of the struggle; and again at South Mountain and Sharpsburg he seems to have been second to no one. At the latter fight he was shot through the foot and obliged to leave the field. General Hooker's name was several times mentioned for the command in Virginia even before the retirement of McClellan; but it is said President Lincoln had not sufficient confidence in him, and even at last named him to the post on the resignation of Burnside against his own judgment. At the last accounts General Hooker was busily occupied in restoring the discipline of the army, which had become "dreadfully disorganised" after the defeat at Fredericksburg.

A recent letter from the army on the Rappahannock, speaking of General Hooker, says:—"General Hooker does not drink now. Base rumour to the contrary, his habits are not such as to cause any alarm. He has never been known to be under the influence of liquor. His clean-shaven face, with his thin white skin, showing the healthy blood under the surface, gives to his countenance, after riding in the wind, such a roseate hue as perhaps to deceive those who do not know him. . . . He comprehends more in one hour than McClellan did in a day, and more business is already done with the staff departments (incomplete as they are) than has ever been done before in the same time at head-quarters."

#### THE FRENCH IN MEXICO.

OUR Engraving represents one of the incidents in the Mexican expedition, in which the French troops gained one of their recent advantages by the spirit and courage with which a small detachment attacked a greatly superior force. The sixth squadron of the 4th Regiment of the Chasseurs d'Afrique, consisting of a hundred horse, left the remaining portion of their effective force with the baggage at San Antonio and set out, with three picked companies of the 95th Regiment, under the command of Colonel Herillier. The column marched at once against San Andres, and, at about four miles distance from the point of departure, they came in sight of a rancho, where it was expected that they would meet with a large outpost of the enemy. A detachment of ten chasseurs, under the command of a boatmaster, immediately attacked the position, in which they surprised thirty soldiers of the Mexican cavalry, of whom they took eight prisoners. This occurred at about three o'clock in the morning, and by daybreak the column had reached a second post, which was held by the same number as those disposed of in the first encounter. These, however, occupied an eminence commanding the town of San Andres, towards which they retreated on the approach of the French force, who pursued them to the entrance of the town, where, after a sharp skirmish, the Mexicans retired by the road of San Francisco. As there appeared now no obstacle to the taking of San Andres, a division of the squadron was directed to pursue the enemy, the remainder of the force traversing the streets, in order to ensure themselves against a surprise. The first detachment, which had crossed the town by the western side, found themselves unexpectedly in the presence of five hundred cavalry soldiers, who had retired under the orders of General Alvarez. The French officer in command only hesitated long enough to enable the horses to recover their wind, and rushed to the charge. The enemy was en route from the city at about a quarter of a mile from the town and only half that distance from the French. The road is an embanked one, fringed with rows of aloes; and, perceiving the intention to charge, the last ranks of the Mexicans turned to face their opponents. They were now so close that they were able to pour in a fire which would have been deadly but for the confusion into which they were thrown by the attack; as it was, it failed to check the impetuous onslaught of the French troops, who charged them in retreat, and at the same time prevented their attempt to execute a flank movement. The mêlée lasted only about ten minutes, when the French captain retired in order, protected by the fire of a party of his chasseurs, who acted as skirmishers and engaged the enemy in front. Meanwhile, the second division, who had finished its reconnaissance of the town, heard the sound of the firing, and rapidly debouched upon the road at the moment that the enemy had rallied in order to act on the defensive. The opportune reinforcement enabled the French to compel the Mexicans to a definite retreat, while they themselves re-occupied San Andres.

#### Foreign Intelligence.

##### FRANCE.

The Polish question is viewed in Paris as a much more serious matter than it was before the intervention of Prussia, and the idea that a European war may possibly arise from it is gaining ground. The *France* of Tuesday evening has an article, headed "Europe and Poland," in which the question is considered from the twofold point of view of European treaties and of the liberal ideas prevalent in Europe, and it is shown that an enslaved Poland would be a violation of and opposed to both. *La France* does not consider a general war will result unless "the independence of Poland should be demanded. France, however (it says), does not seek any occasion for a new struggle, but calls on Russia to confer on Poland liberal institutions, and to repair the present disasters of that country by magnanimity instead of aggravating them by rigour; and counsels that she should constitute a free Poland, and thereby reclaim to herself that generous and valiant race. Of Prussia, the *Constitutionnel* says, the voice raised by Europe against her conduct is still only a warning—the Prussian Government would hardly desire that it should become a threat. The *Opinion Nationale* states, with reserve, that the Prussian Government had refused to yield to the representations of the French Ambassador. A petition in favour of the Poles, bearing 2000 signatures, has been presented to the Senate.

##### ITALY.

A Turin correspondent sends some details of a projected expedition into Albania, which is being planned by Prince Skanderbeg, the descendant of the famous Albanian chief. The expedition is to consist of 6000 men, is to be headed by the Prince himself, and is to have for its historiographer M. Alexandre Dumas. Chimerical and romantic as the scheme may appear, it is said to alarm the Turkish authorities greatly. Preparations are made with the most undisguised boldness, and the event is to come off in the middle of next month.

##### PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Ministry continue to treat the House of Representatives with what may be termed insane contempt. At the meeting, on the 20th inst., of the committee of the Chamber on Polish affairs, none of the Ministers nor any Royal Commissioner was present—a circumstance which the committee resolved should be entered on the minutes of the meeting. The proposition of the

Liberal members, disclaiming any intervention on behalf of Russia, was agreed to almost unanimously.

A telegram from Berlin states that the police of that city have seized three hundred hand-grenades found in the possession of Poles. The latter were arrested, and will be prosecuted. This grenade affair is probably a mere police invention, made to subserve political purposes. The German inhabitants of Posen have published a declaration protesting against Prussian intervention in favour of Russia as prejudicial to the province of Posen.

##### GREECE.

The Provisional Government at Athens has fallen, through a public demonstration, aided by a part of the garrison. A president with executive powers has been appointed. The city was quiet, and the Assembly was discussing a new form of government. This occurred on Sunday last.

##### TURKEY.

An Imperial hatt has been published announcing that the Sultan will in future surrender 20 per cent of the revenues allotted for the Civil List, ordering the reduction of official salaries, and the dismissal of all superfluous employees.

#### THE REVOLUTION IN POLAND.

INTELLIGENCE in detail has been received from Warsaw to the 16th inst.; and, although the Government organ observed a complete silence as to the progress of the revolution, it was known that collisions between the troops and the insurgents were daily taking place in various parts of the kingdom. The silence of the *Dziennik* was considered to be favourable to the cause of the Poles, as the Government have always taken care to make known any successes they may have met with. Troops were, however, being frequently dispatched towards Cracow and Czenstochow, where large bodies of men were said to be assembled, and it was thought that the Government would endeavour to bring on a battle there on a large scale. As might be imagined, a very strong feeling prevailed in Warsaw against Prussia, as the Poles had heard, with rage and astonishment, that a convention had been executed between this Power and their rulers. This feeling on the part of the Poles was much increased by the expectation that the Prussians would act conjointly with the Russians against them. Numbers of people were still leaving to join the insurgents, and only a few days since 500 young people, among whom were many students of the university, departed for the camp of the patriots. It is still stated that the greatest subordination is observed among the insurgents, and that private property is respected in every case where the insurgents do not imperatively need supplies.

The actions reported within the last few days lie chiefly on the southern borders of the kingdom in the Government of Radom. At Konin, in the Government of Warsaw, the population rose on the 17th, attacked the Russians, who are stated to have been 4000 in number, and sent them flying into the woods in all directions. Konin is on the Prussian borders, on the main road from Warsaw to Posen. At Swientz Krzyz (or Holy Cross) a desperate struggle took place between part of Langiewicz' troops and the Russians. The former retreated into a monastery, and inflicted a loss of 100 men on the troops attacking them. The latter lost forty-two more when they retreated. The Russians afterwards returned with heavy reinforcements from Radom (city), and the insurgents then withdrew to the woods.

The most important affair has, however, occurred quite in the neighbourhood of Cracow. The Russians desired to destroy Kurowski's camp at Ojcow, and proceeded in two or three detachments to attack it from as many sides. When they arrived there not a man was to be found except a number of wounded in the hospital, on whom they proceeded to commit the most shameful cruelties. Ojcow they committed to the flames. The absent rebels had proceeded to Miechow, whence the Russians had set out, leaving behind a garrison of 800 men. A most desperate fight took place; the insurgents were twice driven back by the Russians, who were strongly posted in a monastery. The former lost, it is said, 300 men. Later reports say that the insurgents gathered up their strength once more and made a final and victorious attack on the enemy, driving him headlong from his defences. The final result was that Miechow fell a prey to the flames.

Langiewicz was said to have advanced as far as Kielce on the 23rd, and to be marching upon Miechow. A report that Kurowski had committed suicide is not credited.

The insurgents have destroyed some bridges upon the Warsaw Railway. They are also reported to have beaten the Russians near Dubienka, taking two cannon.

A letter from the Polish frontier describes a fight at Siematyce as one of the bloodiest scenes that has yet occurred in this insurrection. It began at 2 p.m. on the 6th, and lasted until late at night. The beaten insurgents retired into the city, where they were next day attacked by the Russians, who stormed the place after a short bombardment. A struggle, the fury and bitterness of which are said to defy description, then took place. Poles and Russians fought hand to hand, and even strangled each other with their hands and bit with their teeth. The savage conflict did not last long; the flames of the burning town brought it to a close. The insurgents gave way and fled; only twenty-three houses are still standing. Mr. Fanshawe's mansion and the church are heaps of ruins. The shrieks and wailings of the inhabitants, driven from their houses by the flames, are described as heartrending.

By private letters from Germans residing in different parts of Poland we learn that the reports relative to the barbarous cruelty of the Russian troops are not exaggerated. As they put unarmed men, women, and children to the sword, the high military authorities are enabled to inform the foreign world "that thousands of the insurgents have bit the dust." It is possible, as asserted, that the Russians really did kill a thousand persons at Semilicy, in the department of Grodno, in the province of Lithuania, as "they put the peaceful inhabitants of the town to the sword after they had routed the insurgents." From Lemberg we learn that a Russian detachment has been "annihilated" by the insurgent corps which is posted at Biala, near the fortress of Brzesc-Litewski.

Drumhead law has been proclaimed in the provinces of Volhynia and Podolia; and in Wilna, the capital of one of the departments of Lithuania, General Nazimoff has made the proprietors of the houses responsible for the conduct of their tenants. The Russians do not allow the Poles to bury their slain, as the Grand Duke Constantine has declared that they shall be food for ravens. The troops which the Russian Government now has in Lithuania, Volhynia, Podolia, and the Ukraine amount, on paper, to about 140,000 men. Eight regiments of the line are in the military district of Kiew, twelve regiments of the line in the military district of Wilna, with Grodno and Mitau, and twenty regiments of the line in the other parts of the above-mentioned provinces, where there are also from twenty to twenty-four cavalry regiments.

The chief of the revolutionary committee at Warsaw has issued an order exhorting the inhabitants to keep quiet, and make no demonstrations, as for the present tranquillity is required at Warsaw; but that when the moment for action arrives the inhabitants will be solemnly called on to unite for the success of the insurrection at Warsaw. The chief has also remonstrated with the Prussian Consul at Warsaw for the zeal he is displaying in the Russian interest. A telegram from Posen announces that the insurgents have captured Konin and dispersed the Russian garrison.

The scythes, which play so important a part in the hands of the insurgents, appear to be formidable weapons. They may be described as a sort of huge double-edged sabre. The Cossacks can do nothing against a band of insurgents whose front bristles with a line of these truly murderous implements. Some surprise has been excited by the report that the Russians had taken several wooden cannon from the insurgents. The value of this statement may be gathered from the following fact:—It is well known that in the Hungarian War, General Bem, finding it impossible to get metal artillery, invented a species of wooden gun, which requires no great art to manufacture. The guns were fixed usually on any ordinary vehicle strong enough to carry them. They cannot be fired more than five



or six times, and after being used are thrown away as worthless. The Polish insurgents have provided themselves with a number of guns of this sort. Three of them, having been already cast aside as useless, were found somewhere by the Russians, who of course immediately trumpeted forth to the world their capture of three rebel cannon.

## THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

### GENERAL NEWS.

The news from America informs us that Mr. Sumner had introduced a bill in the Senate to enrol 300,000 negro soldiers.

The Illinois Legislature had appointed commissioners to confer with delegates from other States upon the condition of the country, to meet at Louisville, Kentucky, in March next, and had agreed upon a recess from the 14th proximo until June 1, in order to receive their reports. In consequence of the proceedings of the Democrats, the Abolition members had seceded from the Legislature, and threatened to revolutionise the State. Kentucky had also appointed commissioners to the Louisville Conference in March, and it was believed that all the loyal Middle and Western States would be represented. The New Jersey Legislature had appointed commissioners to proceed to Richmond for the purpose of inviting the Southern States to join in a national convention. Resolutions brought into the Indiana Legislature demand the establishment of an armistice as soon as practicable, and a convention of all the States, including those of the Confederacy, to be held at Nashville, Tennessee, on the 1st of June.

The New York Assembly, by a vote of ninety-five against four, had authorised the Governor to invite General McClellan to visit Albany as the guest of the State.

Mr. Chase's financial scheme had passed the Senate, and it was thought in Wall-street it would certainly pass the House of Representatives.

The Secretary of War had ordered a court of inquiry to be held at Cairo, to ascertain if any and what Federal officers have been engaged in trafficking in cotton on the Mississippi, granting licences of trade, or using Government transportation for private purposes. This court must necessarily investigate the charges current against General Butler during his administration at New Orleans.

The Florida (Confederate war-steamer) was chased by the Federal steamer Sonoma off the Bahamas, on the 1st and 2nd inst., for thirty-six hours, but, owing to the superior speed of the Florida, the Sonoma was distanced and gave up the pursuit.

At Ship Island a mutinous spirit had been shown by the soldiery, in consequence of the arrival there of a coloured regiment; and an Illinois regiment had been put under arrest for refusing to fight under the emancipation proclamation.

### WAR NEWS.

The military intelligence is not of great importance. There had been a reconnaissance by the night wing of the army of the Potomac. We have, however, no particulars. The Federals had captured Lebanon, Tennessee, with 600 prisoners. The Confederates are stated to have driven back a Federal foraging party near Murfreesboro', with the loss of some 300 killed and wounded. The preparations for an attack on Port Hudson were being pushed on.

About 35,000 men were to be detached from the Potomac army, and proceed to Suffolk, Virginia, by way of Fortress Monroe. A portion of them had already left the Rappahannock. General Burnside was to command this special expedition.

A large portion of the Confederate army of Virginia and of the garrison of Mobile has been sent to Vicksburg. The Confederates have completed the railroad from Selma to Meriden, which enables them to rapidly concentrate their forces at Vicksburg.

The Confederates were reported to be advancing up the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and were said to have reached Okoloma. They were repairing the railroad destroyed by General Grant. The Federals had cut the levees on the Mississippi side of the Mississippi River, twelve miles below Helena, and on the Louisiana side opposite Lake Providence. This has been done in order to flood the country, and to open a communication for steam-boats to a point in the rear of Vicksburg, and to reach the Yazoo River some distance from its mouth.

The Federal ram Queen of the West, after running the gauntlet of the batteries at Vicksburg, had returned from her expedition down the Mississippi. She ran under the Confederate batteries at Port Hudson, drawing the fire of the upper batteries without receiving damage. She destroyed three Confederate provision-steamer and captured 56 prisoners. Colonel Ellis, her commander, in his official report, states that he failed in an attempt to destroy the Confederate steamer City of Vicksburg. He says his shells set fire to the Confederate vessel, but that the flames were extinguished, and in turn the bales of cotton by which his boat was protected took fire from the enemy's shells, which caused him to desist from the attack; but he makes no allusion to the sinking of the steamers or visit to Port Hudson, accredited to him by the above telegraphic report.

The Federal Colonel Stewart, chief of General McClellan's Staff at Vicksburg, has been shot and deserted by his own soldiers (as we understand the passage) while on a reconnaissance, and his private memoranda, relating to the public service, has fallen into the hands of the Confederates.

The attack on Charleston is postponed, on account of a difference between Generals Hunter and Foster. General Foster, having disembarked his forces at St. Helena Island, has returned to Washington to consult with the Government in regard to future movements. General Hunter, at Port Royal, has ordered a conscription of all the able-bodied negroes in his department, to be employed in garrison and fatigue duty, under a directing force of 100 whites to 400 blacks.

### FRANCE AND AMERICA.

A despatch from M. Mercier of the 13th of April, 1862, to M. Thouvenel, published in the French *Livre Jaune*, and just received in America, had created a great sensation in New York and Washington. M. Mercier states that Mr. Seward had expressed a desire, upon the part of the Federal Administration, for the re-establishment of peace, and implies that his visit to Richmond during that month was undertaken at the suggestion of Mr. Seward to ascertain the state of feeling at the Confederate capital. On the 9th inst. the Senate passed a resolution requesting the President to acquaint that body with the character of Mr. Seward's conferences with the French Minister. Mr. Seward, on the 12th, laid before the President the correspondence between M. Mercier and himself, accompanied by a despatch denying that he had made any suggestions to M. Mercier or influenced him in any particular, and stating that M. Mercier's passport to cross the lines was furnished at his own request, and that he travelled in a strictly private and unofficial manner. The emphatic manner in which Mr. Seward contradicts M. Mercier's statements renders it doubtful whether there can be any renewal of official or personal intercourse between them. It is feared that if Mr. Seward be not dismissed M. Mercier will be recalled by the French Government.

### THE AFFAIR OFF CHARLESTON.

Official accounts had been published giving some particulars of the damage done in the late attack upon the fleet before Charleston. For six weeks previously two rams had been lying in the harbour ready for battle. They are built after the fashion of the first Merrimac, and are clad, as that vessel was, in railway iron. The armoured ships of the Northern fleet had gone to an engagement with the forts below Savannah. Two of the heaviest wooden vessels of that fleet were undergoing repairs at Port Royal. The Princess Royal had been captured the day before the attack in an attempt to run the blockade, and the escape on shore of her captain, with it is said, important despatches, had completed the knowledge of the Confederates of things outside the harbour of Charleston touching the force and position of the enemy's ships. Two rams proceeded to the attack. A thick haze upon the sea favoured their audacity. One of them bore down upon a heavy gun-boat, the *Mercedita*. She was not observed by that ship until steaming out of the mist she loomed before her within almost hailing distance. "What ship is that?" cried the *Mercedita*. "The Confederate States' ram *Chicora*," answered the Southerner, at the very moment that her prow burst

through her victim's larboard quarter "at and below the water-line." Having thus driven into one side of the Federalist the Confederate fired a shell that, penetrating one of that vessel's condensers and passing through one of her steam-drums, blew out of the opposite side "a hole four or five feet square." This ram next joined her sister ship in an attack upon the *Keystone State*. A Southern shell soon after set that gun-boat on fire. Having hauled off until the flames were extinguished, the *Keystone State* returned to the conflict under a full head of steam, with the intention of running down one of her small assailants, until a shot or shell having passed through her steam-chests, placed her at their mercy, completely disabled. "Ten rifled shells," says Admiral Dupont, "struck the *Keystone State*, and two burst on the quarter-deck, but most of them struck the hull, being near and below the water-line." The other ships specified by the Admiral as having been engaged in this conflict are the *Augusta*, the *Quaker City*, the *Memphis*. Of these it is confessed that the two former "were struck in their hulls," the latter "struck in her rigging." The *Housatonic* is said to have struck with a heavy shot the pilot-house of one of the rams, "doing it, as it is thought," by Admiral Dupont, "some damage;" but this statement is valuable only as an admission that the force which ventured within range of those little "rebels" numbered at least six ships. Of these six—three of a calibre quite as heavy and in number five or six to one of their assailants—Admiral Dupont admits one, though saved subsequently by a ruse, to have been virtually surrendered, another totally crippled, two "struck in their hulls," one "struck in her rigging," and all no doubt swept from the sea between the "Main Channel" and the "Swash Channel" of Charleston Harbour by Confederate vessels of small size, clad in but a make-shift armour. And these two little mailed warriors of the South returned after their victory, without it may be presumed from the Federal report, the starting of even a ringer in their rude "harness." The raising of the blockade of Charleston is scarcely likely to be insisted on.

### IRELAND.

WORKHOUSE EDUCATION.—A boy from the South Dublin Union, who appeared as a witness before the grand jury a few days since, gave the following extraordinary account of his education in the workhouse:—"I was over fifteen years of age. I was over two years inmate of the union. Does not know the nature of an oath. Never learnt a prayer. Went to mass, but never prayed. Does not know his Catechism. Reads a little. Never saw a Testament. Never heard of the Bible. Does not know the nature of the book in his hand. Can bless himself. Does not know what it means. Saw them doing something at mass, but did not understand it. Never was taught by any one any religion. Never went to confession. Knew the clergyman—a fat man—but never spoke to him or any one else, and was never taught anything by him."

RATHER IRISH.—The following story comes from Dublin:—"A few days since a Liverpool merchant, having business to do in Dublin, took with him gold and bank-notes to the amount of nearly £4000, which he kept in a long leather purse. The day after his arrival in Dublin he was engaged in transacting business, and on his return to the hotel where he was staying he missed the purse and its contents. His impression was that he must have left it in some office where he had been in the daytime, and so he rested for that night. Next morning, however, he was much disappointed, as there was no trace of the purse found. The next night he dreamt that the purse and its contents would be found in the River Liffey, nearly opposite the custom-house. This he at first treated as a dream, but the thing was so impressed on his mind that it became irresistible, and at last he procured a man, with a small drag to drag the river, and directing him to the place of his dream, in a few seconds the drag brought up the missing purse, with its contents, all safe, except that the notes were wet. Of course this defect was easily remedied and the gentleman went on his way rejoicing."

### SCOTLAND.

MONUMENT TO THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT AT BALMORAL.—The monument subscribed for by the tenants and servants of the Royal estates, in memory of his late Royal Highness the Prince Consort, has just been erected. The work is in the form of an obelisk, having three steps at the base; and the front side of the square block immediately above this has been polished, on which an inscription is to be written. It is placed on a small eminence on the south side of the Queen's carriage-road, about midway between the two bridges of Craighie.

### THE PROVINCES.

MELANCHOLY SUICIDE.—An inquest was held at Huddersfield on Saturday last on a man whose corpse had been taken out of a canal. The peculiarity of the case was that the day on which the body was recovered had been fixed for his wedding. The horror of the bride may be conceived. There was little doubt that the deceased had drowned himself, and it appeared that he had some reason for repenting of his engagement; so the jury gave him the benefit of the doubt, and returned an open verdict.

LOVE'S UNCERTAINTY.—Hicks, a respectable farmer at Carloggas, was engaged to be married to Miss May, a milliner at Dartmouth, and the wedding was to have taken place on Saturday week. The appointed morning arrived, and Miss May and her bridesmaids were awaiting the bridegroom, when information arrived that Mr. Hicks had that morning sold off his stock, corn, crops, and all his effects, and started for Australia. The absconding lover, when he arrived at St. Austell, was induced by the workings of his own conscience, or other causes, to abandon his journey and return, with the intention of making the expectant and weeping betrothed his wife. He did so, but the lady was now resolved not to have anything further to do with him, and rejected his overtures for a renewal of the engagement.

DISASTROUS BOILER EXPLOSION AND LOSS OF LIFE.—About noon on Monday a boiler at the Shelton Bar Iron Works, Hanley (belonging to Earl Granville), exploded and caused considerable loss of life, besides damaging a large amount of property. When the explosion occurred the larger portion of the boiler shot up into the air a great height, then took a horizontal direction, and fell about 200 yards from its old standing-place. The sheds and all the adjacent premises were covered with the debris, and a more ruinous scene could scarcely be imagined. Unfortunately, the loss of life was very serious. A number of men were at work, and few of them escaped. How many are killed could not be ascertained precisely, because, as soon as possible, those who were injured were sent to the infirmary and to their homes, and some of them were not expected to survive. Eight dead bodies were picked up, most of them in a frightfully mutilated state, and the number of wounded was upwards of thirty, all very serious cases. The cause of the explosion is not known.

### ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

LISBURN.—The contest at Lisburn has resulted in favour of the Liberal candidate, the numbers at the close of the poll being—Barbour, 140; Verner, 134; majority, 6.

CHICHESTER.—On Saturday Mr. John Abel Smith was returned without opposition for the borough of Chichester, in the room of Mr. Freeland, resigned. Both the retiring and the succeeding members are Liberals in politics.

CAMBRIDGE.—Sergeant Tezer has issued an address to the electors of Cambridge, announcing his intention of becoming a candidate, as a Liberal, at the next general election.

DUMFRIES.—Colonel Clarke Kennedy intends contesting the representation of Dumfries, in the Conservative interest, on the first opportunity.

THE DUCHY OF CORNWALL.—Some interest is taken at present in the income of the Prince of Wales from the Duchy of Cornwall, now that it has become the duty of Parliament to make a provision for the Prince; and the accounts of the duchy for 1862, which have just been published, throw some light on the matter. According to these accounts the income derived from the duchy during that year by the Prince of Wales was £292,130, that being the amount of "payments made to the trustees and treasurer of his Royal Highness" for his use. The gross receipts for the year were £63,604, consisting of £30,884 for "rents and profits of courts," £2492 for produce of the royalties of coalmines in Somerset; £5528 for royalties of dues and rents of mines and quarries in Cornwall; £330 for net receipts of wood sales; £16,216 as annuity from Consolidated Fund in lieu of "tin coinage duties, post groats, and white rents;" and £7592 for dividend and interest. These receipts, however, are only the gross return—numerous deductions requiring to be made. There is a sum of £7853 for expenses of management; £2657 for superannuation allowances, donations and charities, law charges, &c.; £4462 for property tax, annuities in lieu of estates surrendered, &c.; and £13,499 for investments and outlay for the benefit of the estate (of which £10,117 is for the purchase of leasehold interest in a property at Berkhamstead, and expenses), making the total amount of deductions £28,202, which, deducted from £63,604, the gross receipts, as already stated, leaves a balance of £35,402. This sum, it will be noticed, is considerably less than the amount paid for the Prince's use, but the Council for the duchy had also at their disposal a balance of £23,801 from the previous year, or a total net balance of £59,203; so that they were enabled to pay the above sum of £52,130—leaving a balance in their hands of £6478.

## THE SUEZ CANAL.

SINCE our last account of the progress of the works on the Suez Canal, the death of the late Viceroy of Egypt has considerably altered the conditions under which the company had formed its expectations. Our last Engraving represented the operations at Timsah and the formation of the fresh-water canal. We now present our readers with the ceremony to which we referred in describing the return of the workmen by torchlight from El Guiser to Timsah. It is altogether a strange, wild spectacle, full of Oriental barbarism and abounding with picturesque elements.

The fête consisted of a procession by the light of resinous torches and accompanied with rude Arab music, which had the effect of causing the inhabitants of Timsah to take a part in the festivities. The ceremony concluded with the efforts of the dancing-women, who, in the midst of an immense circle of spectators, performed those marvellous Terpsichorean feats for which they are so celebrated. It would appear that the waltz and the polka have now been added to their accomplishments, but are in less favour with the European visitors than the Arab dance called "The Wasp."

Our second Engraving represents the completion of the canal of sweet water running in the direction of Suez, of the cutting of which we previously gave some account. It has since been extended for twenty kilometres; and French reports declare that, with the workmen now at their disposal, the remaining forty to forty-five kilometres, which will carry it to Suez, will be effected in a few months.

If this should be the case, Suez itself will be immeasurably benefited, since its progress has been impossible in consequence of the scarcity of water. To carry the Nile to the city will add the only condition which seems necessary to ensure its rapid increase, and that development of its resources which could never be otherwise attained.

The latest news in connection with the Suez Canal informs us that the Viceroy of Egypt has arrived at Constantinople to pay the homage which is exacted by the Sultan on the accession of an Egyptian Prince. It is not improbable that the Turkish Government, availing themselves of his presence there and of his own disapproval of the proceedings of the *Isthmus of Suez Company*, will open up the whole question. The jealousy of the Porte has been aroused by the serious turn which the affair has taken. It now appears that, on the strength of an old law existing in Egypt, the concessionaires lay claim to all the lands irrigated by the fresh-water canals and the *rigoles de service*. Unless it is resisted and cancelled, this privilege will establish a French colony in undisputed and powerful possession of extensive tracts of land.

THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.—The building has been thrown open as a promenade between the hours of ten and five to all visitors leaving their cards at the doors, and many thousands have availed themselves of the privilege during the afternoon, so as to restore to the nave something of its old aspect of a promenade. It is intended, we believe, to leave it thus open to the use of the public for a fortnight or three weeks. The whole of the interior has been cleared, even to the last remnant of the rubbish that covered the floor and galleries after the hurried flight of the exhibitors. It has been swept and washed from end to end, and not a partition or obstacle of any kind now remains to break the wide expanse of view on every side. The floors, so ruthlessly piled about, have been carefully replaced, new planks laid where the old were worn, barriers and railings withdrawn, and the whole interior made neat and orderly, even to the windows of the nave being cleared of the whitewash with which they were dimmed in summer, and now sufficed to let in a stream of light which shows the centre of the vast hall in all its magnitude to the utmost perfection. The Swedish wrestlers have been placed in the centre of the South Court, and four of Elkington's Magna Charta figures on the pedestals flanking the steps that lead down from the raised dais at either end; but these, with the long rows of seats down the nave, are the only things remaining, and they seem rather as foils than otherwise to set off the immensity of the rest of the unoccupied space.

## THE NEW SEVRES PORCELAIN MANUFACTORY.

IT was about the year 1759 that Louis XV., at the instigation of M<sup>me</sup>. Pompadour, built that porcelain manufactory at Sevres which has lasted through all the changes in French government until to-day, when it is about to be replaced by a new edifice in the park of St. Cloud. It is well that the manufacture should be preserved at the place which has been so long famous for these exquisite and fragile specimens of art unequalled in Europe, and if not originated in the Royal factory, at least surpassing all previous attempts to attain the same results.

The mere delf which formed the earlier specimens of the art in Western Europe were of such coarse materials that even the glaze of the varnish with which they were covered failed to give them any but a rude appearance. The Chinese alone seemed early to have discovered the secret of making that brilliant and semi-transparent substance which has, ever since its importation, been called by the name of their country. In 1580 Duke Francis I. of Medici caused to be made at Florence, under his own inspection, an artificial porcelain, of which many examples are still known, and specimens of which are to be found both at the Ceramic Museum at Sevres and in our own collection at South Kensington, marked on the back with a dome or bell-shaped signature. Long afterwards, in 1673, Louis Potheral, master of St. Etienne, obtained from Louis XIV. the privilege of making in Rouen a porcelain resembling that of China and violet delf, which, for some thirty years previously, had been known as Rouen ware, the first privilege for the manufacture of which had been with some difficulty granted to M. Nicholas Poirer. Some pieces of this old ware are to be found both at Sevres and at Rouen, in the collection of M. André Pottier, who first, in 1847, made known the origin of this workmanship and its local character. It was not till 1691 that the manufacture of porcelain at St. Cloud was established by M. Moris, and carried on with great success by the Brothers Chocoin. A deserter from these workshops, named Ciquaire Cirou, who took with him the Brothers Dubois, afterwards established the manufacture in Chantilly, in 1735, under the protection of the Princes of Condé. Shortly afterwards, in 1740, the Dubois themselves went to Vincennes, where they started a fresh undertaking in the Castle, with the permission of the Governor, the Marquis du Châtelet, and so developed the art that in 1745 the manufacture was conducted on a large scale by the Intendant of Finances, Orry de Fulvy, under the advice of Cardinal Fleury.

As each workshop was established deserters took the art to other districts, and in 1755 Meunier and Orleans each boasted their porcelain factories. All of them were surpassed, however, by the manufacture at Vincennes, which was transferred to Sevres in the following year. At that time the King was only a shareholder in the concern; but, upon his determination to establish the Royal factory in 1759, he indemnified his partners by paying a sum amounting to about 1,800,000*fr.*, and became sole proprietor of the new works, which were built not far from Luciennes and near the residence of M<sup>me</sup>. Pompadour.

The decree which founded this "manufacture of French porcelain" at Sevres forbade all other workpeople any other than the blue decoration, reserving the brilliant painting and sculpturing for the Royal ware alone, which might well be called French porcelain, since it originated in the country and was entirely different from that received from China.

This ancient Sevres porcelain was composed of a variety of materials. There were the salts of soda and of potash, sand, nitre, alum, and marine salt, and the whole reduced to an alkaline silicate, which gave its exquisite texture to the finished porcelain. All the mixtures which have been made at Sevres in our days, however, fail to reproduce the fine and delicate paste of the old specimens; and the chemists, who find no difficulty in analysing the ingredients provided by nature under certain conditions, completely fail in the attempt to recombine them in their due proportions.

The Sevres porcelain, however perfect in form and colour, was at the best fragile and easily destroyed, so that it became a question how to secure that durability which was the characteristic of the porcelain brought from China. The problem was resolved in Saxony, in 1709, by the chemist, Johann Friedrich Böttcher, who had been deputed by the Elector Friedrich Augustus to make some experiments, and produced first a sort of red stoneware, then black, and afterwards an ornamented porcelain, some pieces of which are now in the Ceramic Museum at Dresden. It may readily be



imagined that the discovery at Meissen of this durable paste made a considerable ferment, and that all Europe was seeking for quarries yielding the clay necessary for the manufacture of Chinese porcelain. Fortune, which had assisted Bottcher in Saxony, also favoured the ceramists of Sevres, to whom was sent the clay discovered at Saint Yriex, near Limoges. From the year 1765 the Sevres manufactories produced an abundant supply of strong porcelain, which was the only industry of the town. The old building, erected at a time when the accessories of a large workshop were little understood, was ill adapted to its purpose, and in the course of years numerous additions were made to it, in order to provide for new branches of industry included in the making of delf and enamelling on metals, and the manufacture of glass windows. The old building and its later offshoots, however, seemed going together to inevitable ruin; and, after much consultation, M. Laudin, architect of the Palace of St. Cloud and Meudon, has been consulted, and a new manu-

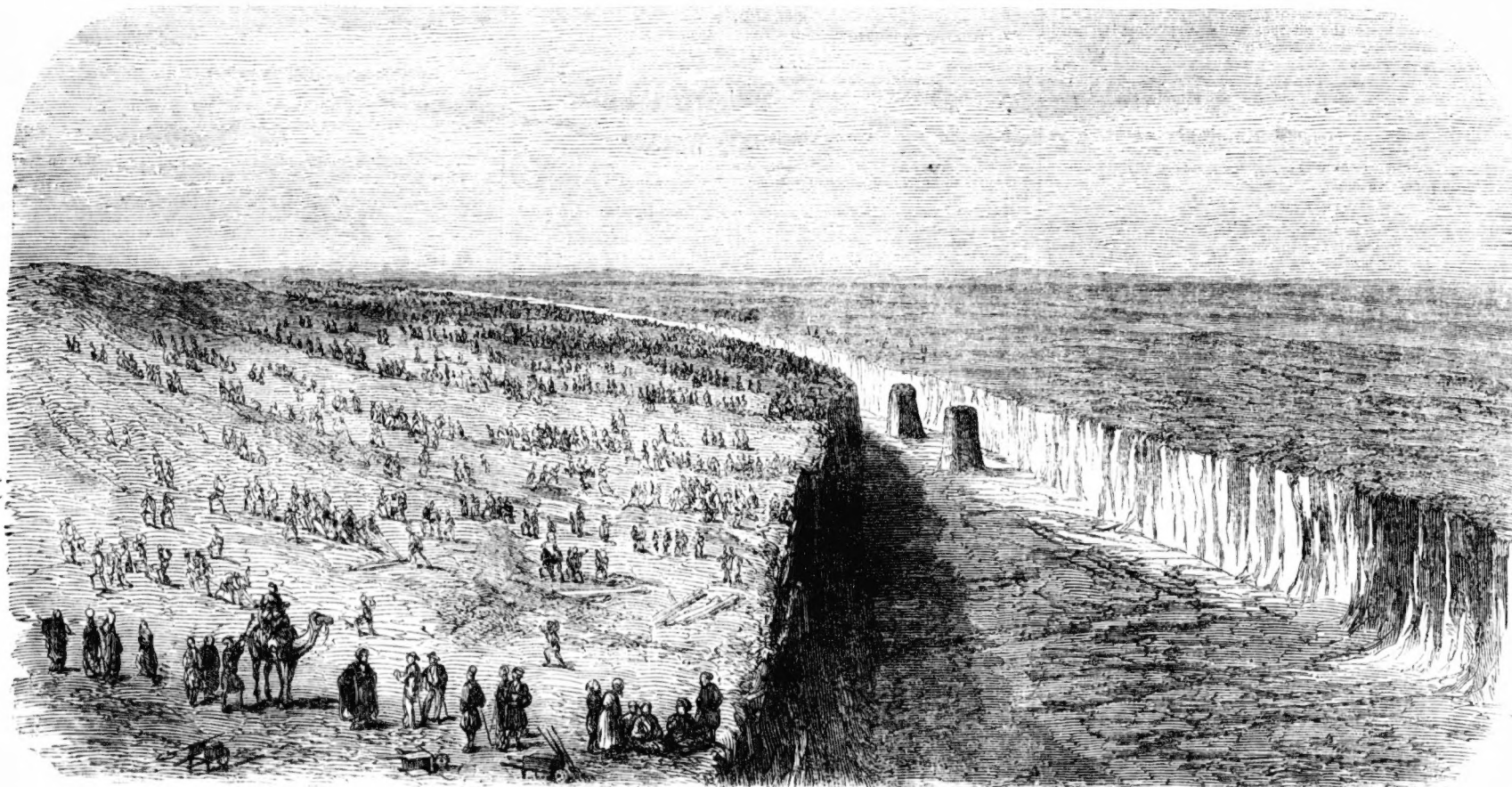


THE SUEZ CANAL.—DANCE OF ALMEES ON THEIR RETURN FROM EL GUISE TO TIMSAH.

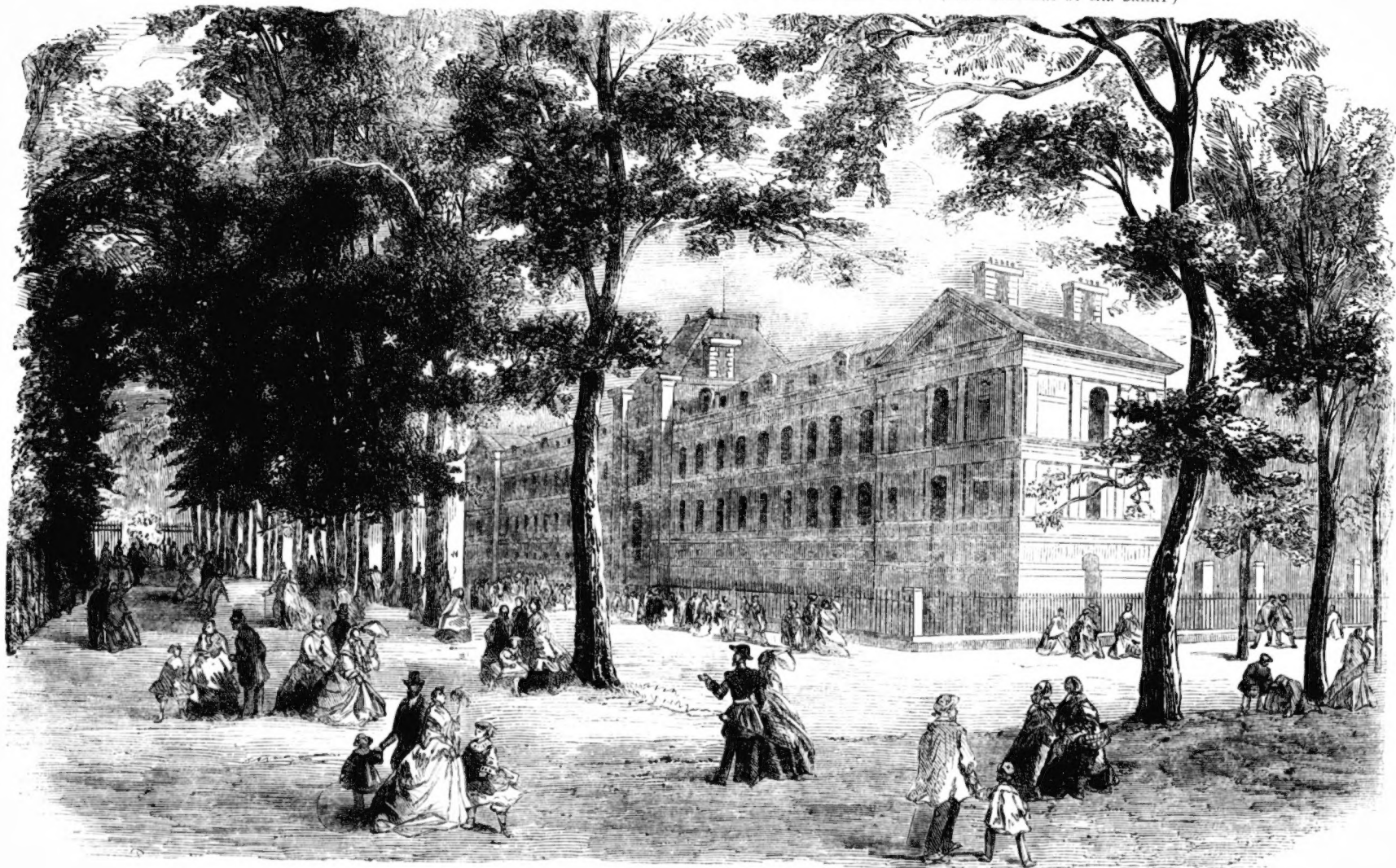
factory now appears on the further side of the grand avenue at the entrance of the park of St. Cloud.

The main structure has already been finished at a cost of 3,500,000f., and the adjoining workshops are fast approaching completion. The basement will contain moulds, patterns, and models of every description; the ground-floor consists of offices and showrooms, where the articles will be displayed for sale; the first floor is intended for a library and a ceramic museum, for which the patient industry of M. Riocreux has secured a most interesting and complete collection, including specimens of almost all varieties of ancient and modern art in porcelain, and enamelling and painting on glass. The workshops will be placed behind the public building, and the dwellings of the directors and the employes will occupy a space between the manufactory and the park railings.

It is estimated that the entire range of buildings, with their accessories, will cost about 8,000,000f.



OPENING OF THE CUTTING OF THE CANAL OF SWEETWATER AT NEFICHE, NEAR SUEZ.—(FROM SKETCHES BY MR. BARRY)



THE NEW PORCELAIN MANUFACTORY AT SEVRES.





FIENAROLLES (VENDERS OF FORAGE) ON THE ROAD FROM CAPUA TO ROME.—(FROM A SKETCH BY CHARLES YRIARTE.)

#### ITALIAN FIENAROLLES.

THE traveller by the high road from Naples to Capua will have little opportunity of seeing those picturesque varieties of Italian costume which have become so dear to artists and tourists, since the route lies past so many towns that the inhabitants of the district have long ago lost their simple and primitive habits, and bear a complete resemblance to the people of the cities. On leaving Capua, however,

the first contadini who are met upon the road on their way to the olive-gathering already exhibit the appearance and bearing (not always agreeable) of the "Transteverina." The women walk with a heavy gait, and glance at the traveller with a lowering brow, and are, for the most part, clumsy in figure, yet they preserve in their bearing that indescribable air which characterises the Roman people, and forces a sort of involuntary admiration. Not only their dresses, but

the jars which they carry, and the panniers and trappings of their cavalcade, have in them an element which never fails to produce a picturesque effect; and it is upon this route that the fienarolles find their most profitable market.

These women assemble every market day, when the carriers go from Gaeta to Capua, and install themselves at the roadside to sell their few meagre sheafs of fodder for horses and cattle. In Italy



during the fine season (and under that sky the season may be said to be always fine) the carriers and market folk seldom trouble themselves to take forage for their beasts, since from station to station they can obtain a bundle of hay from the fienarolles, who will wait all day for the miserable pittance which they can obtain by the sale of their humble merchandise.

A group of these women waiting for a customer is almost a classical picture in the landscape. Many of them possess that statuesque kind of beauty which is the purely Italian type, and their faces, embrowned by exposure to the sun and wind, attain a peculiar hue, which almost gives them the appearance of antique bronzes. Our Engraving is taken from a Sketch which represents a party of fienarolles under the temporary shelter with which they had provided themselves at the roadside.

## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 200.

THE PREMIER AND HIS CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS.

THOUGH the proceedings in the House of Commons are dull and uninteresting—though there is nothing attractive in the present, nor alluring in the future—there is an unusually large number of members in town for the time of year. The weather is open. It is a fine season for hunting. How is it that members have left the woodside and the pleasures of the chase to rush up to town? It must be the coming "auspicious event" which is the cause of this premature muster. On Thursday week, when Lord Palmerston rose to propose the allowances to the Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra, the benches on the floor of the House were closely packed; a large number of members mustered at the bar and behind the chair; and even the galleries, in which, except on important occasions, no member is ever seen, were respectfully filled. His Lordship rose to make his statement about five o'clock, and as he rose there came a burst of cheers from all parts of the House. It was obvious, however, that the cheers from the Conservatives were the heartiest and the loudest. This, at first sight, is anomalous; but a little reflection will show that it is natural enough. His Lordship was about to make a statement on behalf of the Crown, and to propose a grant for its Hereditary Appointments. And who should cheer the loudest on such an occasion but the Conservatives, for have they not from of old been the special guardians of the Throne? And is it not their loyalty which specially constitutes that divinity which doth edge a king? Thus much for their heartiness in cheering. Its loudness may be partially accounted for by the fact that these gentlemen are more in the open air than their opponents, have tougher lungs, and are accustomed to whoop and halloo by the cover side. But still heartier cheering came from the Conservative benches when the noble Lord, glancing at Despotism and its troubles in the East, and Republicanism and its wide-spread convulsions in the West, lauded our Government as the happy medium in which freedom alone could securely dwell. Here the Conservatives cheered with a will. But when the noble Lord proceeded to say, with marked emphasis and appropriate action, "Our institutions not only confer happiness and tranquillity upon the people of these realms, but enable them to enjoy the most perfect freedom of thought, and speech, and action, and all uncontrolled either by the edicts of a despotic authority or by the Lynch law of an ungovernable mob," there broke forth from the Conservative gentlemen present a tumult of tempestuous applause. On the other side of the House, however, at this point of his Lordship's speech the applause was not general. Some smiled in derision; from others there came faint murmurs of dissent; whilst not a few looked serious, as if they deemed that this part of his Lordship's speech was not in the best taste, or that, coming as it did from one in such a high position, and that his winged words would speedily fly like lightning to the east and the west, it was scarcely politic. But his Lordship knew what he was about, for this speech was not an ebullition of the time. It was evidently a studied speech, preconceived and got up for the occasion, and, if it was not so suitable as one could wish for the foreign market, it was well calculated, as it was intended to be, for the home. It was meant to please the noble Lord's supporters on the opposite side, and it was very effective for the purpose.

A BAULK.

We expected to have on Friday a still larger gathering, for that was the day fixed for the discussion of that ominous motion which Sir Lawrence Palk had put down upon the paper touching the supply of cotton, the American War, and recognition of the South—a vast subject, involving no end of vexed questions, and likely to set our biggest guns thundering, and to call up every man who can wag his tongue. But suddenly Sir Lawrence struck away from his motion all that was likely to evoke a storm, and confined himself to the mere dull question of cotton—Where is to come a supply of cotton? And then there was a collapse. Why Sir Lawrence altered his motion we have no means of knowing. We may, however, guess. Perhaps, upon consideration, he felt that he was about to raise a storm which he is not the man to control. Perhaps the chiefs of his party whispered in his ear that the move was impolitic, or, at all events, premature. We have heard floating rumours to this effect. Or, perhaps, he discovered in conversation that though a county member may say anything on this subject, many of the borough members are not quite so free. A new spirit is abroad, both in London and the provinces. It was thought that the country was all but unanimous for the South; but lately there has been no small stir amongst the people, and it has been discovered that the unanimity is not so general as it appeared to be. It may be true that few of the rulers have found the malcontents; but said malcontents have votes, which is, of course, a very important consideration with borough members. But however this may be, Sir Lawrence, whether in obedience to the promptings of his own modesty or his fears, or in compliance with suggestions from others, suddenly struck out the dangerous parts of his motion, and, instead of a long and exciting debate upon American slavery and all sorts of cognate, strife-breathing subjects, lasting all night and perhaps several nights, we had two speeches on cotton—one from Sir Lawrence, which few people listened to and fewer heard, another from Mr. Milner Gibson, whom everybody listened to. The motion was withdrawn, and then exit Palk.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S SUCCESS.

But, though this business was soon over, and Mr. Maguire's motion about distress in Ireland, and Mr. Harvey Lewis's on metropolitan railways, the House did not get up early that night. No, for Sir Robert Peel, seeing how the current of events was flowing, abstained from going to dinner, and sedulously kept watch and ward upon the Treasury bench, and, when the time came, pushed his bill for registration of births and deaths (Ireland) into Committee, and kept the House diligently at work until past midnight. And, wonder of wonders, he got it through. An Irish Government bill of some seventy clauses through Committee at one sitting! Was the like of that ever done before? We remember nothing of the kind of late years. True, Colonel Dixon passed his Land Drainage Bill last week in less time; but that was, comparatively, an unimportant measure, and, what is more to the purpose, was not a Government measure. But this bill was a Government bill, affected large interests, bristled with innumerable salient points for attack, and was met in some parts of its course with the most determined opposition, and yet it passed through Committee in one night, and now it stands for the third reading; and, in all probability, before the Session shall have attained to a month's age, will have got to the Lords. Well done, Sir Robert! You have achieved a wonder; and, if the classic fashion of crowning conquerors were still in vogue, the Lord Lieutenant or the noble Premier would certainly place a wreath of shamrock upon your brow.

QUIET IN HARNESS.

And here we may note that it is quite wonderful to see how the Irish Secretary has grown up to his work, and how adroitly and cleverly he now manages the Irish business in the House. The Irish mind is especially illogical, and vagrant, and discursive. It is almost impossible to keep Irish members to the point in debate. Whatever may be the subject in hand they will wander and meander away into the remotest regions. We had an example of this curious erratic

tendency that same night. The subject before the Committee was registration of births and deaths, but on entering the gallery, after an absence of some quarter of an hour, we found a discussion going on about "repale." Indeed, there are no men so liable to be drawn from their trail and to rush off the scent as our Irish members. Well, at first Sir Robert, not having had much experience, used to follow his opponents in their wanderings, and answer every objection, whether relevant or not, which turned up; and, as may be easily conceived, the Committee occasionally got into the sublimest confusion, and had the greatest difficulty in "harking back" to the right track. But Sir Robert has rapidly learned wisdom. If members wander now he lets them alone; never answers anything that does not require answering. In short, our high-mettled colt is broken to harness, and does his work well.

AN IRISH ROW.

And now we are about Irish matters we may notice a pretty Irish row that occurred on Monday night. On Monday night did we say? Well, it was really Tuesday morning; for, as the Speaker, and the clerks, and the other officers remember, it was past two o'clock before the explosion spent itself. The main business of the night was over, most of the members had bled away to bed, and all but the experienced thought at twelve o'clock that the doorkeeper would soon ring his bell, shout "Who goes home?" and then dismiss the House. But the experienced hands knew better. They saw that the Government whip was watching at the door, that as members came out they were turned back, that the Treasury bench was full, and that all the Irish members to a man were sticking to their seats. Nor were we at all at a loss for the cause. There was a notice of motion upon the books for the appointment of the annual Committee for the examination of the public accounts. Upon this Committee we noticed that there was not a single Irish member, and here the weatherwise from old experience, could discern the cloud which would inevitably burst into a storm. And so it was. The hands pointed 12.30 when Mr. Gladstone rose to move his Committee. He simply moved and sat down. Whereupon Mr. Pope Hennessy, who was deputed leader, rose and opened the ball; and thus the row began; and a very pretty row it was for a time; and at one period there seemed nothing for us but a three or four hours' fight. The Government was resolute, Mr. Hennessy equally so; and as he had a dozen men, all seemingly staunch and true, he might have gone on moving adjournments and dividing the House, as he threatened he would do, till four or five o'clock. Nor did Sir Frank Crossley's petulant remark, that Mr. Hennessy's conduct was ungentlemanly, tend to shorten the contest. It was an unhappy word, that word "ungentlemanly;" and we wonder how the honourable Baronet could be so unwise as to let it slip out. "Ungentlemanly!" Nay, we can stand anything but that. Fortunately, duels are gone by, or the newly-titled member for the West Riding might have found an awkward carte de visite upon his breakfast-table, with some grim-looking, truculent, moustached, military officer waiting for a reply. He got, however, one or two severe rebukes; and, we must say, deserved them; for, so far from the conduct of the Irish leaders in this fight being ungentlemanly, it was perfectly constitutional, and, as we venture to think, justifiable. There are Englishmen on this Committee, and Scotchmen, and there ought to be at least one Irishman; and we do not wonder that Irish members are nettled and galled by this neglect. It looks like a studied insult, and we are not surprised that they resented it. Mr. Hennessy was evidently in full feather that morning. He fought the battle ably and well. Of course he did not succeed in getting the Committee altered, but he forced the Government to acknowledge, though reluctantly, that there was reasonable cause of complaint; and in the end Lord Palmerston gave a half promise that when a vacancy occurs it shall be filled by an Irishman. And now we must be permitted to ask why this concession was not made at first—made gracefully and frankly? How much ill-feeling it would have saved! To us the policy of the Government in this matter is simply fatuous; and so our readers will think when we tell them that one-half of Mr. Hennessy's backers were loyal supporters of the Government. "You do not know yet," said Count Oxeftierna, "my son, how little wisdom is exhibited in ruling mankind." And this is as true now as ever, and especially in the House of Commons.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

POLAND.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH, in asking for papers relating to the insurrection in Poland, declared the Poles had been provoked to insurrection, and appealed to the Government to put itself at the head of public opinion by denouncing the conduct of Russia. He discussed the probability of war with that Power, and pointed out that she was virtually shut out of Europe. Austria had behaved loyally in regard to Poland, and the memory of the gallantry of Poles in the French army placed public opinion there all on the side of the oppressed. Prussia alone had shown, or was likely to show, sympathy with Russia; but her army, he did not believe, would forget its old battles for liberty; and he believed that the King continued to force it against Poland he might find himself seriously involved. The noble Earl's speech was loudly cheered.

EARL RUSSELL could not agree with Lord Ellenborough that the outbreak was entirely unexpected. Last year demonstrations occurred in the churches of Warsaw. In examining the causes which had led to the insurrection it was necessary to remember that Polish society was divided into three classes—the landed aristocracy, the middle class, and the peasants, all of whom differed in their wishes and aims. The aristocracy had petitioned for a constitutional Government, but their address had been deemed unconstitutional, and so grave an offence that Count Zamoyski, who presented it, was banished. The middle classes, despairing from the past, of any improvement in the administration of the country, formed secret societies, some of whose members held extreme views. Instead of endeavouring to conciliate these classes by introducing a better government, the Emperor of Russia determined to adopt a different policy. The conscription was carried out in a manner calculated to excite an unhappy people to despair. In all cases a conscription was a severe measure; but most countries in which it was in vogue had tried to mitigate its harshness, and even in Russia a law was passed, in 1859, for that purpose. But in the present case no regard had been paid to that law; men had been seized for their political opinions; and, while the peasants had been exempted, the townspeople had been solely chosen for the army. He had told the Russian Minister it was a most unjust step for the Russian Government to take. In regard to the arrangements made with Prussia, he understood from the Prussian Ambassador that Russian soldiers would be allowed to pursue Polish insurgents within the Prussian frontier; and he had stated in reply that he considered that Prussia had thereby made herself responsible after the fact for the measures of conscription that had been adopted. Austria had announced her intention of maintaining an attitude of neutrality. He regretted he could not produce the papers moved for.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

POLAND.

LORD PALMERSTON expressed his conviction that a convention had been agreed to between Russia and Prussia in regard to Poland of the character stated in the newspapers; and promised to produce the correspondence relating to Poland which passed between Lord Clarendon and the Government during the Congress of Paris in 1856.

THE SUPPLY OF COTTON.

SIR L. PALK, in a speech of some length, called attention to the distress in Lancashire, and moved for the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the best sources from which to derive a permanent supply of cotton.

MR. M. GIBSON opposed the motion, on the ground that a Commission could do no more than had already been done; and eventually Sir L. Palk withdrew his motion.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

MR. MAGUIRE then drew attention to the existing distress in Ireland. He gave instances of the extent to which the people were suffering, and asked the Government if they intended to adopt any measures of relief.

COLONEL DICKSON supported the appeal.

SIR R. PEEL agreed that there was very great distress owing to three bad harvests following each other; but he did not believe that there was anything which the ordinary operations of the poor law could not relieve.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

RAILWAYS IN LONDON.

On the motion for the second reading of the Great Eastern Railway (New Metropolitan Station and Branches) Bill, a long conversation arose respecting the various projects of railways in the metropolis, in which the propriety of enforcing some uniform regulations to ensure the convenience and ornament

tation of London was strongly urged. Ultimately the debate on the bill was adjourned for a fortnight.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' ANNUITY BILL.

On the order for the second reading of the Prince and Princess of Wales' Annuities Bill,

SIR H. WILLOUGHBY objected to the course taken of calling upon the House to agree to a resolution for a grant of the annuities before the papers relating to the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall were before the House, admitting at the same time that the proposition itself was a just and reasonable one.

A conversation arose with reference principally to the question whether, on every occasion of the death of a Duke of Cornwall, the revenues of the duchy reverted to the Crown; and to the amount and application of the revenues of the duchy during the minority of the Prince of Wales, of which Lord Palmerston gave full details, stating their total amount at £540,000. The bill was read a second time.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House having gone into Committee on the Navy Estimates, Lord C. PAGET prefaced his exposition of the Estimates by remarking that he could congratulate the Committee upon the reduction of their amount, because the Government had been enabled, by the generosity of the House, to make such enormous exertions that the Navy had been thereby placed in an efficient state. The money-vote proposed for 1863-4 was £10,736,032, which was less than the vote for 1862-3 by £1,058,273. After pointing out the reductions in the several items of expenditure, Lord Clarence stated the number and description of armour-clad vessels afloat and building. The number of these vessels under construction or at sea was 21. Of this number, 10 (including one small vessel) were actually at sea or would be ready at the end of the year, and eight more would be completed by April next year. He explained the course proposed to be taken in the conversion of line-of-battle ships, and with the frames of wooden ships building. The number of seamen and marines was the same as last year—namely, 76,000 men. He read an account of the amount of our naval force afloat and its distribution, and, in conclusion, gave very satisfactory details of the condition of the Navy, the continuous service men, the Naval Reserve, and the Naval Coast Volunteers. He moved the first vote of 76,000 men.

SIR J. PAKINGTON thought Lord Clarence was justified in claiming for the Government the merit that it had effected this reduction of £1,000,000 without encroaching upon the efficiency of the naval service. He thought the resolve not to diminish the number of men was a judicious one.

After some remarks from Mr. Baxter, Sir J. Elphinstone, and Admiral Wallace,

MR. COBDEN said there were not two opinions as to the merits of the last speaker, that England should maintain a Navy superior to that of any nation in the world. But the superiority of a Navy did not now depend upon the number of men; it was a question of science and skill, so that when he objected to 76,000 men he did so for this reason, that he deemed the Government so to employ that number in their ships they had that they could be of any use to the country. And, when he objected to the number of men, he objected to the whole expenditure of the Navy, for the number of men voted was the measure of the expenditure in all the departments. The conduct of the Government in shipbuilding had been nothing less than insanity, and the House should be cautious in trusting them now. Could we afford, rich as the country was, to go into all these novelties on a grand scale of iron-clad broadsides? Were we sure that in a few years they would not share the fate of the sailing line-of-battle ships? He called upon the Admiralty to suspend the building of monster broadsides till the plan of Captain Cowper Coles had been tried, and if it was successful this enormous number of men would be unnecessary.

MR. LAIRD concurred with Mr. Cobden in commending the invention of Captain Coles and in urging the Government to let the cupola ships be tried before the completion of the broadsides.

MR. LINDSAY dwelt upon the enormous loss the country had sustained through the caprices of the Government in their shipbuilding operations.

The debate continued, in the course of which Lord C. PAGET gave further explanations on the subject of the iron-clad vessels. Ultimately the vote and a few other votes were agreed to.

THE TOBACCO DUTIES.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in moving the second reading of the Tobacco Duties Bill, gave notice of two alterations which it was his intention to move in Committee.

MR. AYTON moved, as an amendment, that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the expediency of altering the laws for raising a revenue on tobacco.

After some discussion the debate was adjourned.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

LORD STRATHEDEN asked whether the Government intended to enforce that part of the Volunteer Force Commissioners' report which recommended the delay of brigade and division field-days until the end of the battalion drill season.

EARL DE GREY said the recommendation would be put into practice as far as possible.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' MARRIAGE.

LORD PALMERSTON, in reply to Mr. Haefield, intimated that the House would not sit on the day of the marriage of the Prince of Wales.

FRENCH MEDIATION IN AMERICA.

MR. HOPWOOD asked a question in reference to the French efforts for mediation in America.

LORD PALMERSTON said all the correspondence between the Government and the French Government on the subject had already been laid on the table. As to what had passed between the French Government and their Minister at Washington, it would not be convenient, if it were possible, for him to give any answer in respect to it.

PROMOTION IN THE NAVY.

SIR J. D. HAY then brought forward a series of resolutions of which he had given notice in reference to promotion and retirement in the Navy. He contended that naval officers were unfairly dealt with and underpaid, and by his resolutions he sought to improve their condition.

LORD PALMERSTON proposed an amendment for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the subject. His Lordship contended that the House ought not to pledge itself to any increase of the pay of naval officers. The only effect of doing so would be that the other service would put in a claim for an increase also, and the Estimates would be swelled very largely. That, he thought, looking at our present taxation, was a thing which the House would not contemplate with satisfaction.

A long debate ensued, which ended in Lord Palmerston's amendment being agreed to.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ROME.

In reply to Lord Normanby, EARL RUSSELL said, with regard to the despatches, that if his noble friend wished the despatches to be produced he was ready to produce them. With regard to the other question, he was certainly not responsible for what Cardinal Antonelli wrote to the Nuncio at Paris. However, it was not true that he had written the letter referred to in the alleged despatch of Cardinal Antonelli, nor any letter to the same effect; neither had Mr. Odo Russell made any proposals to Cardinal Antonelli which would not have been within the range of his duty; but had simply listened, like any private individual, to statements made to him by Cardinal Antonelli.

After some observations from the Earl of Derby, the subject dropped.

PRINCE OF WALES' ANNUITY BILL.

On the motion of Lord Redesdale, this bill, brought up from the House of Commons to-night, was read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.—THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTOR OF THE NAVY.

SIR F. SMITH complained of a breach of privilege on the part of Mr. Reed, the Chief Constructor of the Navy, in having written a letter to him (Sir F. Smith), in consequence of some remarks made by him respecting Mr. Reed's appointment. Mr. Reed accused the gallant member of making false and libellous statements concerning him in his place in Parliament, where he had no means of making a reply. He hoped the House would think that members ought not to be subjected to such attacks as these.

The letter complained of having been read, it was unanimously agreed, on the motion of Sir F. Smith, that Mr. Reed's letter was a breach of privilege, and he was called to the bar of the House.

INDIA.

On the order for going into Supply, MR. BAILLIE rose to move that where differences of opinion have arisen with respect to the interpretation of treaties with native Princes of India, the questions at issue ought to be referred to her Majesty's Privy Council. He charged the right hon. Secretary for India with having violated the promises in her Majesty's proclamation to native Princes, and especially in the case of the Nawab of the Carnatic.

MR. SMOLLETT seconded the motion.

SIR C. WOOD denied that the Indian Government had violated any promises, and trusted that the House would leave all such cases as the Nawab of the Carnatic to be dealt with by a responsible Government.

On a division the motion was negatived by 104 against 24.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES' ANNUITIES BILL.

This bill was read a third time and passed.

NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House having gone into Committee, the remainder of the night was occupied with the consideration of the Navy Estimates.



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## ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1863.

## RAILWAYS THROUGH LONDON.

THE subject of the extension of railways through the metropolis has recently excited some attention, principally by reason of the numerous applications by various companies in relation thereto. It is of course not anticipated that one-half of the plans submitted for Legislative approval will ever receive the required sanction. It is possible, even, that a few of them have been projected in actual expectation of an adverse result, and with no other view than that of the profit to arise to a number of directors, surveyors, and Parliamentary agents at the expense of too-confiding capitalists. The authorities of the City have already become alarmed at the number of schemes tending to convert the streets of London into the great nucleus of railways from all parts of the country. In the House of Lords the Earl of Derby has stated the reasonable objection of the citizens to a proposal for the destruction of Finsbury-circus and a portion of its neighbourhood and approaches in order to erect thereupon a station of the Great Eastern Railway. In the course of the debate it was mentioned that one railway company had to watch 180 bills and another 41, and that a great waste of money accrued thereby to the public.

The Earl of Derby proposed that the Board of Trade should, in the public interest, be directed to report upon proposed metropolitan railways as an entire group, and not as unconnected speculations.

It appears to us that a much broader ground might be taken with advantage upon this discussion by raising the question as to the advisability of excluding railways from the metropolis altogether. Many arguments present themselves in favour of this view of the subject. The expense of metropolitan lines and stations is enormous, and their advantage questionable. Their drawbacks are the disfigurement of streets, the demolition of dwellings, danger to life and limb, and generally their needlessness. In metropolitan traffic alone the infrequency with which trains can be run without serious risk and the necessity of continual stoppages, may, and most probably would, render them far less available for general use than the more ordinary public vehicles. The perils of a railway crossing a great public thoroughfare must be known to all who have ever ridden or driven through such a road as that leading from Lambeth to Westminster Bridge, when the huge whirling mass of iron and timber has been rumbling and clattering along the line of rails above their heads. The conveniences of the system can be but trifling, compared with its disadvantages. It may be pleasant for the traveller from a distant part of the country to another, at the opposite side of the compass, to be able to pass through or over London half way upon his journey without being compelled to change his carriage or shift his luggage; but even in such a case it can make but little difference to him whether he can pass in a straight line or be compelled to make a *détour* by skirting the metropolis.

The avocations of a great city involve conditions utterly incompatible with that of being the centre of a network of lines of railway. Such minor nuisances as those of the advertising-vans and the miserable noise of the poor organ-grinders are carefully kept in check by the Legislature, considerate in respect to the degree of peace and quietness absolutely necessary to a great commercial and intellectual emporium. It is not too much to say that the establishment of even a small proportion of the lines already proposed would be to defeat their own objects by driving away from the vicinity of the termini the very classes for whose benefit they were originally intended.

There can be, indeed, but little fear of the disasters which might follow the propositions already put forward, because the chances of their being sanctioned are necessarily remote. It is not only against the probable result of the completion of such plans, but against the waste of time, labour, and capital consequent upon their being even entertained by Parliament, that the public has a claim to be heard. At the present time half London is in doubt as to whether the thoroughfares in which its inhabitants live and carry on their business may not in a few months be rendered untenable, if not doomed to destruction. Against this state of things, no less than that of a possible future by which streets may be rendered hideous to the sight and perilous to ordinary traffic, the public has a rightful claim to be protected, even by the operation of a statute which shall make their tenure of homes, offices, and establishments no longer uncertain or dependent upon the whim and hopes of profit of any company, however respectable or plausible.

CARNIVAL "HIGH-JINKS" AT VIENNA.—At Vienna, in Carnival time, a kind of masked ball is held at which gentlemen, and they only in mask, are admitted. The "tomfoolery" this year took everywhere a political character. The new Stamp Act, Prussia as leader of Germany, Germany divided into large and small, Greece seeking a King, Lord Palmerston as a hawk selling Kings, United Italy with her "brilliant," and Austria as a great Power represented by a gentleman wearing a pair of Hungarian inexpressibles, top-boots with spurs, an elegant German dress-coat, and the much-reputed "cylinder hat." The police, the Reichsrath, and the press each in turn was ridiculed, not to forget Louis Napoleon III. exchanging ideas for profitable pieces of land.

## SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE CROWN PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA, accompanied by her youthful son, arrived at Gravesend at twelve o'clock on Monday, and immediately proceeded to Windsor. Both her Royal Highness and the boy looked remarkably well.

THE HEALTH OF PRINCE ALFRED, who has been suffering from fever on board the *St. George*, is now, we are happy to state, greatly improved, and all danger is believed to be over.

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF LONDON have voted £10,000 to provide a present to Princess Alexandra.

LORD PALMERSTON has accepted the honorary colonelcy of the 1st Administrative Battalion of the Cinque Ports Rifles.

ISMAEL PACHA, the Viceroy of Egypt, has gone to Constantinople to pay his homage to the Sultan.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW ON EASTER MONDAY is again to take place on Brighton Downs.

THE REV. W. J. E. BENNETT, Vicar of Frome, declines to take part in any festivities on the occasion of the Prince of Wales's marriage, because that event is to be celebrated in Lent!

SEVERAL LADIES OF HIGH RANK have been arrested at Venice by the Austrian police on suspicion of high treason.

THE CONFEDERATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has ratified a £3,000,000 loan from the Paris bank at the rate of 7 per cent.

THE RESTORATION OF HEREFORD CATHEDRAL will soon be completed, and it is intended to celebrate the event on the 25th of June.

BISHOP COLENSO is repudiated by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. A formal resolution has been passed at a late meeting of the society, passing over his name as one of its vice-presidents. This is equivalent to a vote of censure.

THE REV. JOSEPH WOOD, Incumbent of Clayton-le-Moors, near Blackburn, has been convicted of forgery and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.

THE ALIBERT THEATRE, at Rome, has been completely destroyed by fire.

AT FAKENHAM, Norfolk, Mr. Frederick Bunell has abducted his niece, aged fifteen, and married her. The girl is heiress to some property.

THE SWEDISH DIET has declared itself in favour of a common system of coins, weights, and measures for Sweden, Norway, and Denmark.

AMONGST the later experiments at Shoeburyness has been the firing against "unbacked" plates, which seem in every instance to have afforded comparatively small resistance to heavy shot moving at high velocities.

THE AMERICAN BARQUE *ACHILLES*, Captain Gallagher, arrived in the river on Sunday evening, having on board 5000 barrels of flour from the Philadelphia committee for the relief of the distress in Lancashire.

A DUEL WITH SABRES took place last week in the forest of Bondy between two Hungarian emigrants, M. de B. and Captain N. The latter received a rather serious cut on the head. The seconds were arrested by the police.

THE BODY OF A MAN has been found in the Basingstoke Canal at Aldershot under circumstances which lead to the conclusion that he has been murdered.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN was arrested at St. Louis on the 7th, and given the alternative of leaving the State in half an hour or going to gaol. George, having no fancy to see the inside of a gaol, chose the former, and crossed the river immediately.

THREE PAIR OF ENGLISH THRUSHES have built their nests and successfully reared their young in a garden on the banks of the Yarra, near Melbourne.

WITH A VIEW of checking the growing crime of infanticide in London it is proposed to erect an East London Foundling Hospital.

THE FEDERAL AMERICANS resident in London dined at St. James Hall on Monday evening in celebration of Washington's birthday.

IN THE SITTING OF THE PRUSSIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES on the 18th, a bill, declaring the Ministers civilly responsible for the expenses which they have unconstitutionally incurred, was adopted by 274 votes to 45.

PROFESSOR PLOTZ, of Charlottenburg, who exerted himself at the last election on behalf of his party, the "old (moderate) Liberals," has been deprived of his office of examiner in the French language of persons desirous to pass for the diplomatic service.

A MAN NAMED MARTIN, aged 112 years, was recently received into the hospital at Bayonne. It was thought that his illness would bring the old man's already long career to a close; but in a few days he was again on foot, and on his way home.

THE INHABITANTS OF DUBLIN have held a meeting to protest against a project now before Parliament to construct what is called a Metropolitan Railway in that city.

MAX KARPE GOSSELOW, a respectable-looking German, supposed to be a student of Heidelberg, has been committed for trial at Oxford for theft from various rooms in the University, where he had been received and entertained by the occupants.

A MAN attempted to break into the residence of the Rev. Mr. Bradshaw, Curate of Bucklebury, Wiltshire; but Mrs. Bradshaw was awake by the noise, and, going to the window, discharged two barrels of a revolver at the thief, which caused him to beat a hasty retreat.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOGS received in Chicago city since Oct. 1—the commencement of the packing season—amounts to 1,056,110. These, stretched out in one line, would reach a trifle over 1250 miles.

A MOVEMENT IS ON FOOT to erect a statue in memory of James, seventh Earl of Derby, who was executed for treason against the Commonwealth, 1651, at Bolton-le-Moors, in which town the statue will be placed. Mr. Calder Marshall is preparing the model.

MRS. WELLS, a pleasant old lady of one hundred and three years of age, died in New York lately. She was born in 1769; C. Golden was then the British Governor, and the city contained about 6000 inhabitants. What a change during the lifetime of this lady!

THE CAPTAIN AND OFFICERS OF THE *GEORGE GRISWOLD* were entertained at dinner on Saturday last by Captain Ingfield, of her Majesty's ship *Majestic*, stationed at Liverpool. Some of the leading gentlemen of the town were at the dinner. The proceedings were altogether of an enthusiastic character.

SAMUEL BIRRETT, of Bungay, Suffolk, went to bed drunk a few nights since. The house took fire, and before he could be extricated he was burned almost to a cinder.

THE POLISH EMIGRANTS are said to have the intention of choosing diplomatic representatives in the capitals of the great Powers. These would be, at Paris, Prince Czartoryski; at London, Count Zamoycki; at Vienna, Prince Sapieha; at Berlin, Count Cieszkowski.

AT PORTOBELLO, near Edinburgh, a dromedary in Manders's menagerie, having been irritated, snapped at a spectator, and when Macomo attempted to pacify the animal it lifted him by his arm, and, whirling his body round, threw him down. Assistance was soon at hand, and Macomo escaped with a lacerated arm.

AT TURIN THE ACTOR SALVINI, hurt by some very reasonable and moderate strictures on his style of performance in a feuilleton of the *Gazzetta di Torino*, challenged the writer of the article, Botto, and inflicted upon him two sabre-cuts.

THE YOUNG POLISH STUDENTS in the medical and law schools of Paris have sent an address to their French comrades, thanking them for the sympathy which they displayed towards Poland by a manifestation last week. They at the same time bid them farewell, being on the point of setting off to fight for the independence of their country.

THE PRINCESS DUCHESS DE POIX, née Talleyrand-Périgord, widow of the Prince Duc de Poix, formerly French Ambassador at St. Petersburg, has just died at Versailles, at the age of seventy-seven. Under the First Empire she was Lady of Honour to the Empress Maria Louisa; and under the Restoration was Mistress of the Robes to the Duchess de Berry.

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has restored to vigour an ordinance of 1853, according to which refuge and protection are refused to disturbers of public order in Austria or in Russia. Extradition may take place, if demanded, by the Government aggrieved. No Pole coming from abroad can enter Prussia unless provided with a passport bearing the visa of a Prussian Legation.

THE CREW OF A SCREW-STEAMER which was lying in Cusshenden Bay, North of Ireland, landed to obtain provisions. A boy was sent back in a boat to obtain a basket, but, a gale having risen, he was drifted towards the Scottish coast, and twenty-three hours afterwards the boat split on the rocks of the Mull of Cantyre. The boy managed to grasp a ledge of rock, where he remained for several hours, until he was rescued by a fisherman.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR, by an order of court, has ordered, by the 5th of the consolidated orders of the Court of Chancery, rule 6, that the offices of the court be closed on Tuesday, March 10.

THE DISPUTE in reference to the arms seized while passing through the Principality has been satisfactorily settled.

THE DUKE OF RUTLAND still remains at the George Hotel, Grantham, under the treatment of his five physicians, the injuries received in the late accident while hunting preventing his being removed to Belvoir Castle for the present.

THE ORIGINAL PARTITION OF POLAND.—A recent publication, that of Dr. Smite, has proved beyond the possibility of doubt that Prussia was the country and the Court which originated and matured the plot for the first betrayal and partition of Poland. Singular to say, Dr. Smite was supplied with the information and the documents necessary to establish his position by the Russian Government, anxious to escape at least the shame of having played first brigand in the melodrama of the Three Despoilers.—*Examiner*.

## REVIEW OF SPANISH TROOPS ON THE BIRTHDAY OF THE PRINCE OF ASTURIAS.

THE journey of the Queen of Spain through the various provinces of the country has been succeeded by political difficulties and the reconstruction of the new Ministry, the latest changes being the dismissal of four Directors-General of Marine, and the appointment of Senores Posada-Herrera and Regreté to the Council. Meanwhile Marshal Narvaez, who has paid a visit to the Queen and to Marshal O'Donnell, is organising a new unit of all sections of the moderate Liberal party, while it is stated that a complete understanding has been established between the Crown and the new Ministry.

In the midst of these cares of Government, however, there has been fresh holiday-making at Madrid, and the birthday of the heir apparent, the Prince of Asturias, has been the occasion for a series of fêtes, which have been celebrated with a magnificence worthy of the Spanish Court even in its palmy days, and successful in maintaining the public enthusiasm on behalf of the present dynasty.

The principal and the most popular of these was the grand review of the troops at Madrid, under the command of General O'Donnell, the Governor of the city.

The garrison of Caravanchee was united to the regiments already in the capital, and the impression upon the vast crowd assembled to witness the spectacle was deepened by the bearing of soldiers who had exhibited such high qualities in the late war with Morocco and in the campaign in Ochin-China. Their movements were executed with the precision which might have been expected from a well-trained army, and the national sentiment was freely expressed by the people, who greeted them with no little excitement.

After the review the members of the Cortes presented themselves at the palace in order to convey their congratulations to her Majesty, and the evening concluded with that process of kissing hands which is one of the peculiar ceremonies of the Court of Spain, on account of the importance which is attached to it and the pomp with which it is invested.

The honour of kissing the Royal hand is accorded to all the officers and dignitaries of State, as well as to those who are intimately connected with the Court and the Government, and the occasion is marked by a degree of enthusiasm and apparent devotion which can scarcely fail to make a profound impression on the spectators, and may remind them of that deep devotion which attached itself to the young Prince Alfonso, who received similar homage from the nobles, when, in 1465, they dethroned the effigy of John II., and, headed by the Archbishop of Toledo, plucked crown and sceptre from a Royal lay figure which had been placed on a scaffold in the plain of Avila. There is, in truth, something of Eastern tenacity in the spirit with which the Spanish people adhere, not only to national customs but to the demonstrations of feeling with which they are inseparably connected.

DEATH OF DANIEL W. HARVEY, Esq.—Mr. Daniel Whittle Harvey, the well-known Chief Commissioner of the City of London Police, died on Tuesday morning, at his residence, Old Jewry. Mr. Harvey, we believe, was nearly eighty years of age.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has intimated, through General Knollys, "his great pleasure in becoming the vice-patron of the Royal National Life-boat Institution, and in contributing a donation of £30 for the purposes of the institution." The Prince of Wales thus occupies in the institution the place which the late lamented Prince Consort, his father, filled since 1850 with so much advantage to the cause of humanity. At that period the society possessed twelve life-boats, and its annual expenditure was about £300. The institution has now one hundred and twenty-three life-boats, and its expenditure is £15,000 a year. Its boats save every year, on an average, three hundred lives from shipwrecks on various parts of our coast. It is worth recording that the life-boat of the society at Padstow, on the Cornish coast, was, with the special permission of the late Prince Consort, named two or three years ago "The Prince of Wales." On the day the Prince attained his majority, on the 9th of November last, that life-boat was providentially the means of saving a shipwrecked crew from a watery grave, a coincidence with which his Royal Highness, as Duke of Cornwall, was much pleased to be made acquainted.

FIREWORKS FOR THE ROYAL MARRIAGE.—With the sanction of the War Department the fireworks which have remained in store at the Royal Arsenal since the peace rejoicings at the termination of the Crimean War will be used for a grand pyrotechnic display, which will take place on Woolwich Common on the evening of the wedding-day of the Prince of Wales. Other fireworks of a magnificent description are now being prepared at the laboratory department, and it is stated that a considerable number will be forwarded for a display in Hyde Park, and also at Windsor. On the morning of the wedding-day Royal salutes will be fired by batteries of artillery and from the Frigate, flag-ship; and a review of the troops in garrison will take place on Woolwich Common.

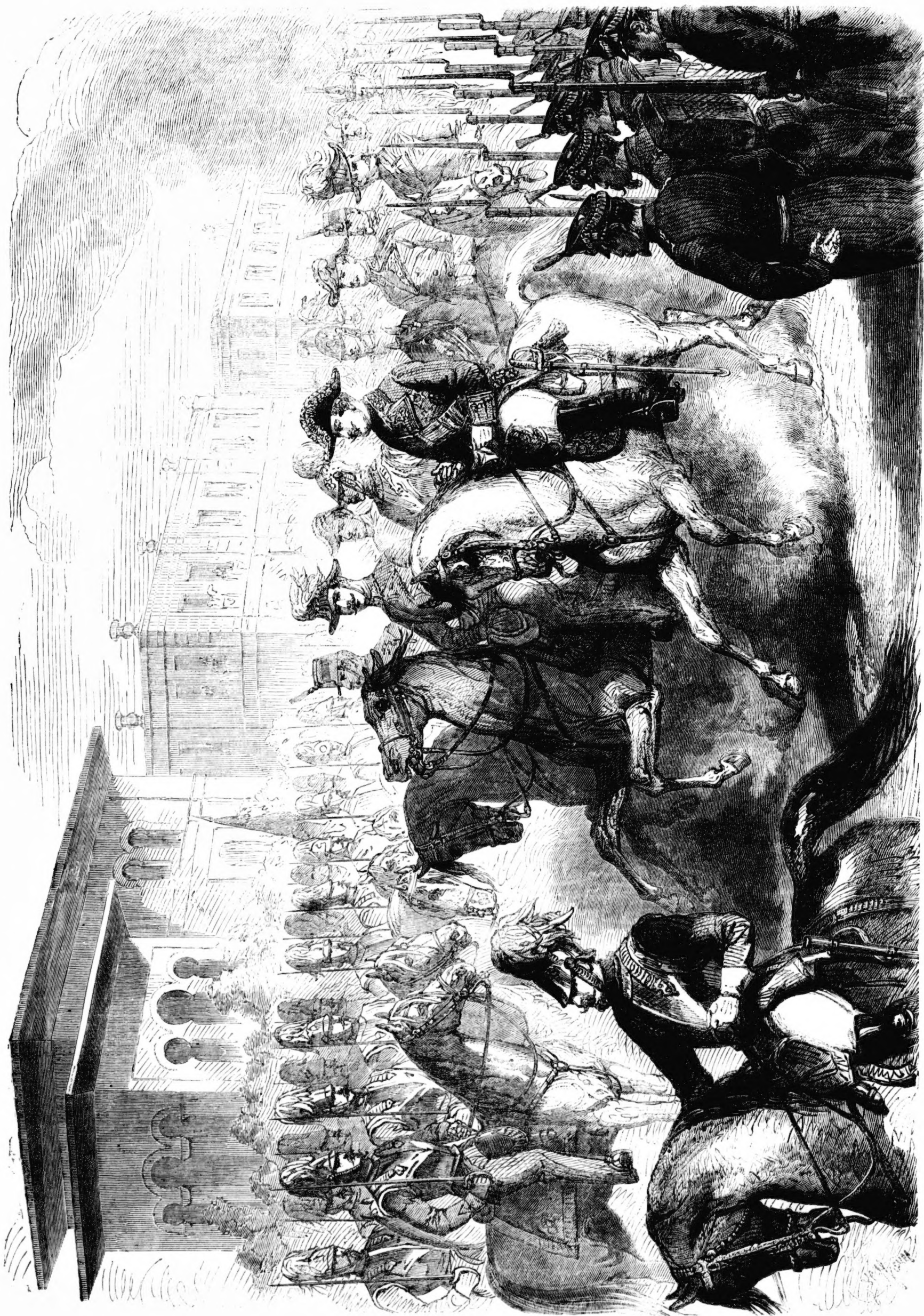
THE CARNIVAL IN ROME.—A letter from Rome of the 14th gives some accounts of the state of the carnival in that city:—"The carnival has gone off just as the National Committee ordered. On the 11th the Corso was deserted, and not more than a dozen carriages were seen. The Government is greatly irritated at what is going on, and the gendarmes move about with furious countenances at seeing groups here and there with whom they dare not interfere. On the afternoon of the 12th the Corso became rather more animated. Suddenly a watchword got into circulation, 'To the Pincio!' and the Corso in a moment became deserted, while the public garden became full to overflowing. On the 13th, which was a Friday, when all carnival gaieties are prohibited by the rules of the Church, and when the custom is to remain quietly at home, the Corso was filled by an immense crowd; but no masquerade dresses were seen." A curious artifice was adopted by the anti-carnivalists at Rome to render the masked balls at the theatres unpopular. They got up into the upper boxes and showered down thence a quantity of sneezing-powder, which set the whole company of dominoes and costumes into violent fits of nasal convulsions and obliged them to abandon the theatre.

THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION has just sent a new life-boat, 30 ft. long, and a transporting carriage, to Portleven, near the Lizard, on the Cornish coast. The cost of the life-boat was presented to the institution by T. J. Agar Robartes, M.P., who had previously, in conjunction with the late Hon. Mrs. Agar, given to the society the cost of the Lizard life-boat. The institution has now nine life-boats on the Cornish coast.

A ROYAL KEEPSAKE.—The *Danmark* contains an interesting account of the cross which has been presented as a keepsake by the King of Denmark to Princess Alexandra. It is a facsimile of a curious antique cross, the history of which is as follows:—"Dagmar, the 'Darling Queen' of Denmark, died in 1212, and was buried in Ringsted Church. She was carried to the grave adorned with a costly jewel, which lay on her breast. In the time of Christian V., when her tomb was opened, this cross was taken care of, and it is now one of the most precious objects preserved in the Museum of Northern Antiquities in Copenhagen. This golden cross, which is about an inch and a half long and one inch broad, is covered with figures of enamel on both sides, and is supposed to be of Byzantine workmanship. On the front is Christ on the Cross, and on the back five half-length figures, Christ in the middle, St. Basilides above, St. John Chrysostom below, St. Mary on the left, and St. John the Evangelist on the right. Golden screws fasten the two sides together, and the space within probably contains a splinter of the Holy Cross, or some other relic. To lay hands on the original cross was, of course, not to be thought of. It is regarded by the people as a kind of Palladium. But his Majesty has ordered an exact copy to be made by his Court jeweller, who is also at work on the jewel which accompanies it."

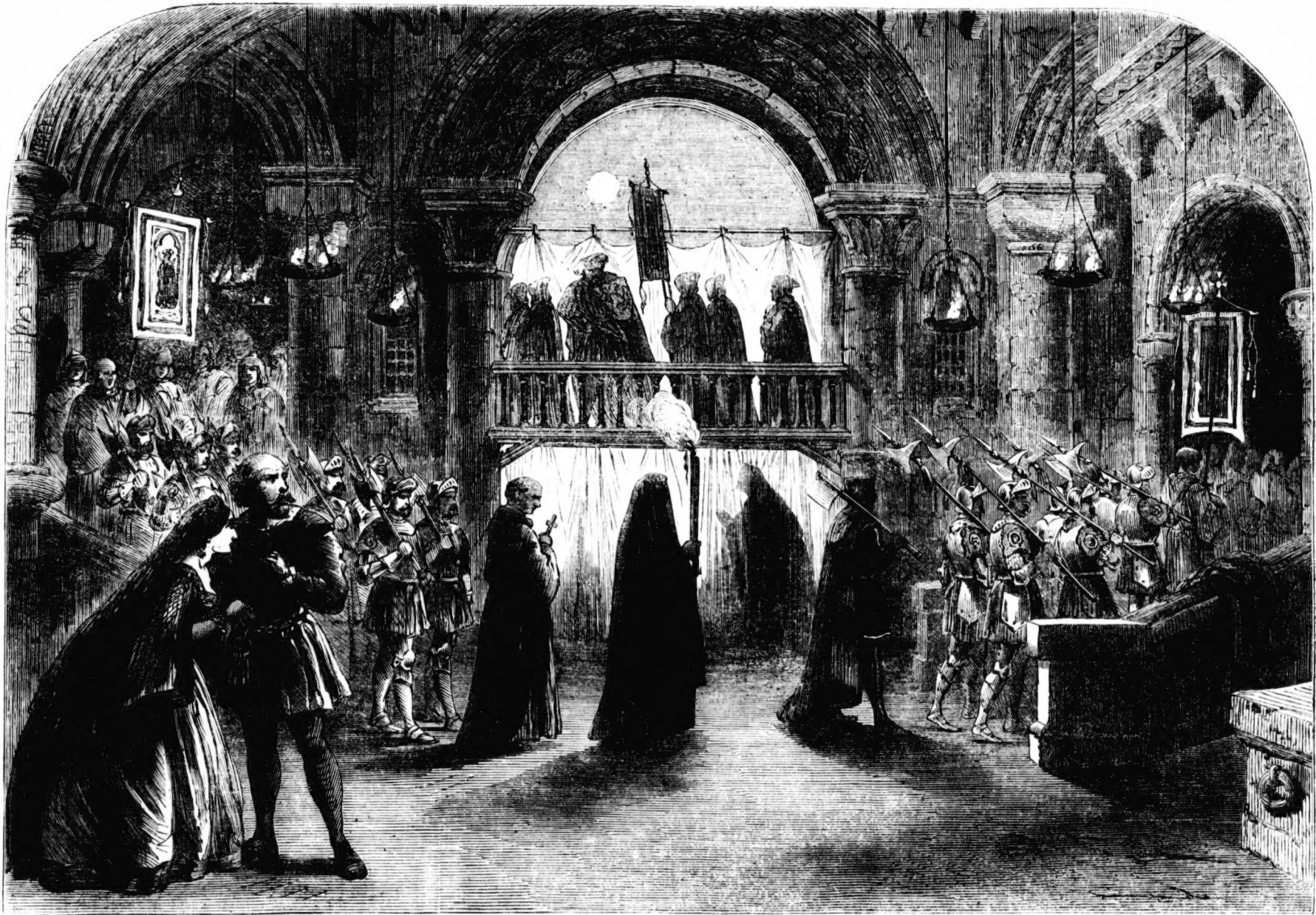
CITY ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL.—The annual festival of this charity was held on Friday evening week, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, the Lord Mayor presiding. About eighty friends of the hospital, amongst whom were several members of Parliament and gentlemen holding eminent positions in the medical profession, sat down to dinner, while in an adjoining room an elegant cold collation was provided for the ladies, who afterwards assembled in the gallery of the dining-saloon. In the course of the evening his Lordship earnestly and forcibly urged the claims of the charity, which he argued were none the less because the relief afforded was of a special character, and might scarcely be fully appreciated by any but those who had witnessed those terrible deformities for the cure or alleviation of which the institution was established. His Lordship dwelt upon the large difference which the contributions to the Lancashire Fund was likely to produce in the amount of the subscriptions to more ordinary and immediate charities, but urged that it was incumbent upon all those who were blessed by Providence to testify their gratitude by extraordinary efforts to mitigate the sufferings of their less fortunate brethren. It appears that the City Orthopaedic Hospital was established some ten years ago, when the Royal Orthopaedic (then the only charity for the special treatment of such cases) was quite inadequate to supply the relief demanded by hundreds of applicants. That two, or even more than two, such hospitals are needed may be gathered from the fact that during the ten years since the opening of the City Orthopaedic in Hatton-garden nearly 10,000 patients have been treated for every variety of deformity, and that the beds of the establishment would be continually filled but for the want of necessary funds. The amount of the subscriptions (including those of the ladies' collecting books) announced on the occasion, exceeded £600.





GRAND REVIEW BY MARSHAL O'DONNELL AT MADRID ON THE BIRTHDAY OF THE PRINCE OF ASTURIAS.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. BAUMANN.)





SCENE FROM BALFE'S NEW OPERA, "THE ARMOURER OF NANTES," AT THE ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.—(SEE PAGE 142.)



A SINGING-LESSON AT MINERVA HOUSE.—(DRAWN BY FLORENCE CLAXTON.)



## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

AN Austrian gentleman tells me that his Government has lately made a very important and significant alteration in the law respecting soldiers' arms. Formerly, if a soldier lost or disposed of his arms, he was imprisoned five years in a fortress; now all he has to do in such case is to pay 30s. The effect of this alteration is this: Muskets are worth in Poland 40s. or 50s. Hundreds of Austrian muskets are every week finding their way over the frontier, the Austrian soldiers making a handsome profit by the venture. But what says the Austrian Government? Well, it winks hard and says nothing.

Your readers must have often read reports of questions and answers in Parliament touching our foreign policy which must have excited their surprise. For example, a noble Lord asks the Foreign Secretary whether he has any objection to produce certain despatches. The answer is, "There are no despatches." No despatches! How came the noble Lord, usually so well informed, to ask for despatches which do not exist? Well, the answer is this: There is a practice now at the Foreign Office of carrying on correspondence with officials abroad by means of private letters, putting into despatches only what the Government does not care about the public seeing; and thus the Parliament and public are juggled. There are no despatches, in the technical meaning of the words. I mention this subject here because it is exciting a good deal of talk just now, and probably before long will be brought before Parliament—as it ought to be; for, if this distinction between private communications and despatches is to be allowed, it is clear that Parliamentary control over the Foreign Office and the Colonial Department is a mere delusion.

Mr. Kinglake's book has produced immense excitement and commotion at the Horse Guards, which will probably produce results; but nobody seems to know exactly what is going on. There are, I learn, copies of a correspondence between the Commander-in-Chief and Sir de Lacy Evans in circulation; but I have not seen one, nor can I hear of any one who will positively avow that he has read this mysterious correspondence. Everybody in military circles, however, that you talk to asserts that there has been a correspondence, that copies are in circulation, that the correspondence arose out of statements in Kinglake's book, and that it is rather fierce. I hear, too, that a score of pens have leaped into activity, and are now busily employed in defending persons and regiments from the accusations or insinuations of Mr. Kinglake. The artillery officers are in a dreadful fume about the writer's description of the Battle of the Alma. In fact, Mr. Kinglake has set the whole military world by the ears. It has, since writing the above, been whispered to me that his Royal Highness suspects that Sir de Lacy Evans was Mr. Kinglake's principal informant touching the Alma; and hence the row.

Dr. Johnson was certainly correct when he wrote in the *Rambler* "Wonder is a pause of reason, a sudden cessation of the mental progress, which lasts while the understanding is fixed upon some single idea." I had the correctness of this definition strongly exemplified a few days ago at the Polytechnic. I went thither to see what the bills call "The remarkable illustration of Mr. Charles Dickens's idea of 'The Haunted Man,'" and I heard a succession of old ghost stories and feeble jocularities so warmly applauded that I am compelled to fall back upon Dr. Johnson, and conclude that the wonder excited by the really marvellous optical illusions occasions "a pause of reason and a sudden cessation of mental progress" in the audience. Mr. Dickens's Redlaw the Chemist was, as you doubtless remember, haunted by the ghost of himself—a solemn phantom, which bestowed upon him a weird and untoward faculty. Professor Pepper shows us a stalwart student of real flesh and blood, who, seated on a small stage, "mugs" and tumbles, first with a white skeleton ghost, then with an artist ghost, and, finally, with a drunken female ghost, who "passes the bottle," and appears to be a kind of foreign Saville of the opposite sex. Decidedly is Mr. Pepper wise in his generation when he declares this to be "a remarkable illustration of Mr. Charles Dickens's idea of 'The Haunted Man.'" It is so remarkable that it has the advantage of being as little like the original as the doctrine of Professor Jowett is to that of Dr. Pusey. But the exhibition is well worth a visit, notwithstanding the bit of claptrap which seizes upon a popular author and makes advertising capital out of his name. The heading, "A Strange Lecture," though an obvious paraphrase on the title of another author's latest work, is a perfectly legitimate name for the entertainment provided by Mr. Pepper. Every one of the experiments are interesting, and most of them are new. An apparatus recently invented by Mr. Rose (not the gentleman who is known under the sobriquet of "Sketchley," but a Glasgow mechanical engineer), and called "The Photodrome," forms an agreeable prelude to the real business of the evening. This, of course, is ghosts, and it would be difficult to speak too highly of the admirable reality which their ghostships present. Without any background, and with all the roundness and visibility of living figures, the artist and the repulsive female appear and disappear in the centre of the stage or room, and the skeleton moves its jaws and extends its bony arms with a precision and force which would be far from agreeable were it witnessed in solitude.

In spite of certain defects, the subject-matter of the lecture is so interesting, and the illustrations so wondrous, that I am not in the least surprised at the lecture-room being as crowded on each representation as the pit of a theatre on Boxing Night. One word as to the management of this same crowd. I went specially to see and hear "the strange lecture." I have no doubt that a large proportion of my fellow sightseers were drawn to the Polytechnic for the same purpose, and I do think, therefore, that when the room is known to be full there should be some notification of the fact put up outside, after the fashion adopted by Mr. Benjamin Webster in the days of the "Colleen Bawn," and of Mr. Buckstone during this present reign of Lord Dundreary. After I had paid my entrance-money and purchased my programme, I was told, in reply to my query as to the whereabouts of "the strange lecture," that I "should not be able to get in, as the room was quite full, but that the Dissolving Views were to the right." Dissolving views! Here had I made a pilgrimage, devoted a precious evening, and disbursed cash, that I might have strong meat in the shape of ghosts, and a callous attendant would have put me off with the misty insipidities I have loathed from my youth up. I indignantly made my way to the lecture-room, and, being both athletic and compressible, I scrambled on to a sort of shelf above the stairs, where I hung over an abyss, and clung for safety to the boots of several gentlemen, with the knees of several other gentlemen inflicting severe torture in connection with the small of my back. I thus saw and heard the lecture; but, *ea victis*, woe to the weak and helpless! They had to wander among the philosophical instruments and the diving-bell, and must have heard the laughter and applause of that portion of the audience who were not writhing in uncomfortable attitudes, with, as Mr. Tennyson says,

an angry longing,  
What is there that I should do?

Professor Pepper was once or twice interrupted by what he was pleased to term "discussion." I beg to suggest to him that if his servants had orders to admit no more to the lecture-theatre than it will comfortably hold, and to ensure something like decent behaviour in the matter of mutual accommodation—such as sitting down in front, and doffing hats—that his audience would be more likely to behave as "The Happy Family" to which he so touchingly compared them. Having passed my strictures freely, it is right to add that, in spite of every discomfort, the apparitions are too good to be missed; so, as the author of the "Christmas Carol" writes, "A fair field and no favour for the ghosts, ladies and gentlemen, if you please."

It has been written that "poverty is the nurse of manly energy and of heaven-climbing thoughts." Perhaps it is, but I doubt whether officers in the Royal Navy would not be happy to exchange both the "nurse" and their mental Jacob's ladder for a modest competence, however emasculating. A letter in the *Times* of last Monday contained such startling statistics concerning the pecuniary career of our Naval officers that I have taken the trouble to verify the writer's figures, and can now indorse them as correct. Assuming, then, that an officer enters the service as a naval cadet at the age of 13, he will probably become a midshipman at 15, a sub-lieutenant

at 19, and a lieutenant at 22. This last step gives him 10s. a day full-pay, and a half-pay ranging from 4s. to 6s. A maximum income of £182 10s. per annum, though not boundless, is tolerably good for a young man of 22; but the evil is that, unless the usual period is shortened by powerful interest, his pay for the next ten years remains stationary, and at 32 he is still a lieutenant, vegetating on an income of less than £200 a year. Without specifying his various promotions, it will be sufficient to say that my imaginary naval officer will then remain idle for three years at 8s. 6d. a day; afterwards have 16s. 6d. a day and 2s. 6d. a day for table money for four years; and, later still, will, as post-captain, at the age of 39, have 10s. 6d. a day half-pay, and five years to enjoy it in. This brings him to the ripe period of 44, when, always supposing that his political interest is strong and his private means ample, he will obtain, and venture to accept, a command, which gives him an aggregate income of pay and allowances of 25s. a day. I will not follow his case up to the prizes of the profession, such as the command of coast-guard ships or the admiral's flag, because these are necessarily reached only by the few. After three years' command my suppositions officer retires on a half-pay which ranges, according to his seniority on the list, from 10s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. a day. That is, the reward of a life's labour may be less than two, and shall not be more than three, hundred a year. The "manly energy" has been "nursed" to some purpose, and the "heaven-climbing thoughts" are employed in a sordid struggle to make both ends meet. It must be a bitter pill for many an old veteran when he reads the Naval Estimates, and learns that millions of public money are annually squandered in costly experiments. The price of a single maritime abortion would do much to gladden the heart of the entire service; and in these days, when "marriage on three hundred a year" is written of as an amusing problem, it is surely a foolish as well as a cruel policy to keep our Navy but one degree above starvation point.

Do you note that the furore produced by the readings given by Mr. Charles Dickens at the Paris Embassy has excited such emulation among French authors that various members of the institute have been wishing to read from their own works too? Application for permission to read in public was dutifully made by M. Ferdinand de Lesseps, on behalf of himself and his brother authors, and was fortunately refused by the Prefect of Police. I say fortunately, because these good gentlemen would inevitably have suffered much disappointment, and have read to empty rooms. Fancy the crowds collected to listen to the wondrous rendering of "David Copperfield" being expected to muster in equal force when the bill of fare was M. Henri Martin on a Gaulish bard, or M. Laboulaye on popular education! Our neighbors have yet to learn that there is reading and reading. But that a body of eminent authors are officially forbidden to read in public for a charitable purpose, is as curious a sign of the times as that ladies of rank should masquerade with flowing hair and bare feet, or as white rose-trees with the drops of dew formed of diamonds, while two "illustrious personages in dominoes" join in the "shrieks of laughter" caused by "Counts, and Dukes, and Princes" dancing an "extraordinary quadrille" in the guise of a village wedding-party, with a distinguished senator as bride. The repression of free thought on the one hand, and the encouragement of luxurious frivolity on the other, force on the memory with strange significance the *Mene, mene, tikel upharain*, of Balshazzar's feast.

At the mid-day meeting of the Geological Society, held at Somerset House, on the 20th inst., there occurred what a diplomatic reporter would term "an animated discussion," and an Irishman describe as "a jolly shindy." It is unnecessary to name the grave public interests involved in the dispute, but I beg to offer my tribute of respectful admiration to the exquisite temper and calmness displayed by scientific men who differ in opinion.

The soirée of the Photographic Society, held Friday evening week, was well attended. Both amateurs and professionals mustered in considerable numbers, and the conversation was more brilliant and animated than a lengthened and dreary experience of scientific soirées led me to expect. The rooms were so well filled with every kind of photograph that one regrets they are not to be kept open during the season. The difficulty of procuring a suitable room compels the society to exhibit now, instead of in May or June, and the annual result is a pecuniary loss. Surely a little energetic management might obviate this, and add one more to the legitimate attractions of the season.

"Did ever Dian so become a grove" as Mr. Di(o)n Boucicault becomes the Surrey side of the water? In that congenial soil he flourishes splendidly. The great point in his puff-letter to the *Times* and his preliminary advertisements was, that by his system the cost of managing a theatre was so greatly reduced as to trouble the manager to make a large reduction in the prices of admission. On this plan Mr. Boucicault began, but last Monday he raised the price of orchestra stalls to the old regulation sum of five shillings. And in a recent advertisement he says that families can "walk to the theatre without leaving the parks, which extend to Westminster Bridge, at the corner of which the theatre is situated." Not quite, surely, dear Sir? The "parks," by which is presumed St. James's, extend to Storey's gate, whence families would have to traverse Great George-street, to pass by the corner of King-street, so pleasantly associated with recruiting sergeants and the "fine young men" they appeal to, and then cross the bridge on the other side of which the "theatre is situated."

The clubs have by no means settled as to the manner in which they shall receive ladies on the 7th, or, in some cases, even whether they will receive them at all. The Oxford and Cambridge and the Reform are the most hospitable, and intend erecting balconies for their female friends. The Athenæum, the Carlton, and the Senior United restrict their hospitality to the loan of their windows. What a tremendous excitement is being caused by the arrival of a young lady whom the penny-a-liners already call "the fair Dame!" I have heard of sixty guineas being asked for a drawing-room floor in St. James's-street for the day; and there will be little enough to see, for, if I am credibly informed, the Royal cortège will go at a smart trot after passing through Temple Bar.

## THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Mr. Falconer has made a mistake with "Bonnie Dundee" at DRURY LANE. His scene-painter (Mr. Telbin) and his ballet-master (Mr. Oscar Byrne) have done wonders, but he himself, as author, is found wanting. His story is crude, unconnected, and uninteresting; devoid of plot, and giving no scope for individual acting. A moon-light snow-scene, by Mr. Telbin, is one of the wonders of scenic art; and the "gathering of the clans," where four hundred supers, clad in plaids and brandishing claymores, are simultaneously on the stage, is a great "sensation effect." But the piece is so poor that, on the first night, the audience hissed soundly, and "Bonnie Dundee" will prove but a weak successor to the "Peep of Day."

The rumour that Mr. Fechter had received Royal command to change the name of the LYCEUM to the "Prince of Wales's Theatre" was, to a certain extent, premature. It is more than probable, however, that such command will ultimately be issued. Mr. Fechter's success continues; his theatre is still crammed to the roof; but every other place of amusement in London has suffered seriously during the past week.

The success of Mr. Leicester Buckingham's comedy of "The Merry Widow," at the St. JAMES'S, has been undoubted; still it is to give place to "Lady Audley's Secret," which is announced for production to-night (Saturday). Miss Braddon's other novel, "Aurora Floyd," is in course of dramatic preparation both at the ADELPHI and the PRINCESS. At the former theatre Miss A. Jones is to play the heroine.

The receipts of the Dramatic and Equestrian Sick Fund, at the annual dinner held on Ash Wednesday, with Mr. George Sala in the chair, were above £100 larger than on the previous occasion, when Sir Charles Taylor presided.

A TRANSPORT VESSEL on a new plan has just been completed at Cherbourg. Thirty-six others are nearly finished, on the same plan, and they are to be increased to fifty. Each vessel is capable of accommodating 1000 men, so that, in case of necessity, the flotilla at Cherbourg might transport an army of 50,000 men.

## OUR FEUILLETON.

## ON OUR NOT UNDERSTANDING ONE ANOTHER.

A MAN once insisted to me that he had been told by a lawyer that the transfer of a wife by the halter and shilling process in the market-place was a legal matrimonial process—making Gill who had before belonged to Jack the lawful chattel of Tom. Now, no lawyer could ever have said anything so absurdly false. How, then, did the misunderstanding arise? Simply from the inexact use of language. Let us imagine the whole story.

The halter and shilling rite is being performed in the market-square of a provincial town, when my informant, the surgeon, full of disgust, comes upon his friend the attorney, and the following dialogue ensues:

Surgeon: Cannot that sort of thing be put a stop to?

Attorney: Oh, dear, no! There is no law against it.

Surgeon: Do you mean to tell me that this is a legal transaction?

Attorney: Quite.

And there the matter ends—a wrong idea being carried away by the surgeon. All that the attorney meant was, that there was nothing in English law to prevent three free people—Jack, Gill, and Tom—making fools of themselves with a rope, a shilling, and some gibberish, any more than there is a law to prevent gipsies or thieves "palling" as they please with their own ceremonies. The procedure was not, in itself, unlawful, in the sense of being criminal—that was what the attorney intended to convey. The surgeon thought the "transaction" was "legal" in a positive sense, and went and misled other people into thinking with him.

This is only a specimen of the kind of misunderstanding of which daily life is full—so full, that the wonder is how the business of the world goes on at all. The curious part of the case is that people will assent to this, in general terms, when you point it out, and then go and forget it just when they ought to recollect it. The time for remembering an important general observation like this is when we hear something of what another has said or done which is made the subject of unfavourable comment; in a word, it is when scandal is being talked, or when partisan praise is being given, though praise does not so often stand in need of being subjected to a discount as dispraise. We should bear in mind that nobody possesses the power of relating a fact exactly as it happened; that very, very few can repeat words exactly as they heard or read them, and that a charge which may be inappreciable to ordinary minds, until its consequences are pointed out, may be, in reality, of the most vital moment in our intricate story. I have at this moment in my memory a correspondence in which the verb "excuses" was, by successive stages, changed into—1, defend; 2, justify; 3, applaud; 4, encourage! I have actually under my observation another instance in which a man who said "he did not, at the moment, see how something could be avoided," was reported to have said "there was no possible way of getting out of it; it must be so." Now, even in the driest, simplest matters of business, it is easy to perceive what mischief may arise from such mistranslations by incompetent tongues of things said, written, or done; but with what dreadful force does the same observation apply in the great crises of existence, when complications of strong feeling and hurrying events conspire to darken the understanding, stimulate the imagination, and pervert the honest will!

The popular saying that one story is good until you hear the other gives rough expression to the idea that only imperfect dependence is to be placed upon one-sided reports of whatever kind. Yet, unless the solemnities of judicial proceeding compel the vulgar to think of it, the idea is seldom remembered for the purposes of life. And, after all, it is only cultivated people, who have made both life and literature a study, and who are in the habit of thinking at white heat about everything great and small—it is only this very limited number of persons who can be aware of the possibilities of error which underlie the best-connected and best-supported stories. It is not only that positive solid falsehoods—myths—will in a few hours gather round a nucleus of fact—the falsehood being solid in proportion to the nebulousness of the central point—it is not only that, though that is, so to speak, incredibly, staggeringly true; but small matters of fact get turned round and twisted into new shapes by different brains and different tongues until the truth, as it really existed, is recognisable only by one or two persons who were actual shers in the transaction, and hardly by them. I find a striking illustration to my purpose among the collected poems of the late James Montgomery, and will let him tell his story in his own words. The reference is to a myth which had got abroad about some supposed results of his imprisonment in York Castle. I have a good deal abbreviated what he writes, and the case is, in consequence, rather understated than overstated. This is what he says:—

"I shall venture to prolong this new introduction to my 'Prison Amusements,' by mentioning a circumstance which requires explanation from myself, who alone can give it. In the 'Table Talk' of the late Mr. William Hazlitt, vol. i. p. 371, I find this paragraph, which I quote literally:—'Mr. Montgomery, the ingenious and amiable poet, after he had been shut up in solitary confinement for a year and a half, for printing the Duke of Richmond's letter on Reform, when he first walked out in the narrow path of the adjoining field, was seized with an apprehension that he should fall over it, as if he had trod on the brink of an abrupt precipice.'"

"Now, there is not one word of pure fact in this anecdote, which, nevertheless, was intended to be the truth throughout, believed to be so, and published to excite compassion towards the sufferer. I never printed the Duke of Richmond's letter on Reform; I was never shut up for a year and a half in solitary confinement; and I never felt any fear of falling over the edge of a narrow path through a flat field."

"During my reveries in prison I often proposed that my first rattle on recovery of my freedom should be down by the river, under the trees, across the fields beyond, and away to the windmill."

"On one fine morning in the middle of April I was liberated. Immediately afterwards I took my walk in that direction. While I was thus traversing the fields—not with any apprehension of falling over the verge of the narrow footpath, but from mere wantonness of instinct, in the joy of liberty long wished for, and, though late, come at last—I wilfully diverged from the track, crossing it now to the right, then to the left, like a butterfly fluttering here and there, making a long course and little way, just to prove my legs, that they were no longer under restraint, but might tread where and how they pleased, and that I myself was in reality abroad again in the world. Having once or twice mentioned the frolic in company, I know not through how many mouths it may have transmigrated before it reached Mr. Hazlitt in the form under which he has presented it."

This surely is a very instructive instance of misreported fact. But how many of my readers will carry away from this article the lesson it attempts to teach? How many will remember, the next time they hear a bit of scandal, that it is absolutely impossible to report a thing exactly as it happened? that two different people must see different things and tell different things of the same scene? How many will remember the hackneyed tale of Sir Walter Raleigh at his prison-window, and the moral of "The Three Black Crows" fable? We quote that fable to our children by the fireside, as if it were useful for guidance in life; and then, in our own lives, the very next time anybody offers us three black crows we take them in our hands, cherish them, and pass them on—a little bigger and a little blacker.

Among important causes of misunderstanding I reckon three of the most influential to be—

I. Differences of moral tone and of sentiment.

II. Differences of vocabulary.

III. Poverty of imagination and downright ignorance.

The differences of moral tone that exist between human beings who are ostensibly classifiable in the same rank, and perhaps living inevitably in intimate relations with each other, are enormous, and of themselves fatal to good understanding. Absolute disinterestedness is something quite chimerical to large numbers of people. "How much are you to get for this?" said the ever-suspicious Napoleon I. to a man who was warmly interceding for another. "What is the consequence of moral differences such as one here gets a glimpse of—absolute differences of the levels on which people live or try to live? Why, just this: that what one man



speaks like a young virgin; the other hears like an old stager. And so, in fact, it befalls every day and every hour. Nor is there any remedy of speedy applicability. Differences of what is called "sentiment" are of less consequence (or may be of less consequence—it all depends on the other factor); but I have in my mind an actual case in which one man discovered that he had for months been going on a wrong tack in a discussion with another—discovered it through that other letting fall the words, "I don't believe a man radiates moral sentiment." Now, as one of the two persons *did* believe that, and had been proceeding upon the supposition that the other did, what blundering there must have been between them!

Again, misunderstanding cannot be escaped when, by the word "love," one person means personal affection with only a restrained general goodwill, while the other means personal affection and unlimited benevolence; or where A means by the word what it stands for in a transcendental poet, while B means the household form of the "passion" which is uniformly supposed to subside with time and twopenny trouble; or where C adopts, through some deep-laying instinct of race, or through education, or both, the semi-Oriental idea of love with all its degradations; while D is guided by the Teutonic conception. And so on through a thousand illustrations.

Differences of vocabulary constitute a very grave cause of misunderstandings among average people. Little as it may be remembered, every change of culture or mental habitude induces a change, greater or less, in the force of words to the mind of the individual. And at every remove which occurs the chances of misintelligences are multiplied. Now, inasmuch as some few people are for ever moving, while others stand nearly still all their lives, what awful scope for mutual mistake there must be between them! And the mistakes do actually occur; and tempers are spoiled, and energies scattered, and affections wounded for want of a more cautious intelligence in the use of language—for lack of attention to whites and greys of signification.

I have mentioned ignorance and poverty of imagination as common causes of misunderstanding. I mean that we are all apt to assume that when we know "the facts" and have attended to the arguments in any question of philosophy or conduct, we are at the end of the story. But we should remember that we can never be sure that we know all the facts, and that one fact more (as well as one fact less) may utterly change the aspect of things. There was a supposed law (I say a supposed law, because I do not need, for my purpose, to try the question) of political economy, about which a terrible outcry was once made on account of the consequences which would—invariably, it was said—follow from its application. All the facts that were known were taken into account, and all the arguments were fairly dealt with. The conclusion seemed irresistible. But, all the while, there were facts remaining to be known in the science of biology; and from these facts, which are now verified, a law is clearly inferred which balances the other. So the outcry was premature. Now, the biological law to which I refer—although it has here and there been instinctively acted upon for ages and all over the world—is not known, probably, to more than one person in twenty thousand, if to so many. Supposing, then, that the odd one man guides himself by the law, what sort of justice is he likely to get out of the nineteen thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine? "Oh," you say, "this is an imaginary case." But, indeed, it is not. I speak with an instance in my own personal knowledge, in which a man, standing high in religious society both for intellect and character, had to live down, some years ago, on infamous scandal, for which there was no foundation whatever, and which arose simply because he knew of a Divine law more than his slanderers, and applied it.

A case like this involves both the ignorance and the poverty of imagination of which I spoke. What we ought to think, in all difficult cases in which we are called upon to endeavour to understand others, is this:—"I know all these facts, but it is conceivable that there may be other facts which, if I knew them, would vary my apprehension of what is intended to be conveyed either by these deeds, or these words, or both." We should try and think dramatically. It is not enough for justice that we place ourselves in the position of our friend or our enemy before we translate him. We should, first of all, try and turn ourselves into him. Having done that, we should then, by another effort, look at ourselves from his point of view. All this seems very obvious, yet we do not habitually heed it. If we were to hear that Johnson and Thompson had differed and dissolved partnership, our first impulse would be to wonder which was in fault. It would not occur to all of us to think that neither might be in fault. Yet how full of difficulty and danger are even carefully-considered cases! The symptoms of apoplexy and the symptoms of drunken apathy are alike; but there is a symptom the more in one of the two cases. We forget the possibility, and the man dies through our maltreatment. So it is in a million stories of daily existence, whether the interests at stake are great or small. We know "the facts," all but one, the possibility of which we had never contemplated. But there are always new facts to be known, and the best-considered "practical" conclusion may be upset to-morrow. "Then," you say, "what certainty is there?" Here is the answer:—None whatever, in your sense. Every inch of life is volcanic. Truth has always a new trick to show you. The moral is—Think from hand to mouth. That is wisdom and humbleness. The contrary is folly and conceit.

I have not touched, except in remote hints, the subject of intellectual differences, and imperfections in mere logic as sources of misunderstanding: it is far too wide to be discussed here. I will only add that we are bound to be grateful that that illusion of a true mutual understanding under which most people exist serves even so well as it does the purposes for which we are put in the world. This thought may well rebuke too impatient an analysis of the material of life. The great scheme works to its issues by using up our blindness as well as our seeing—our dulness not less than our intelligence.

W. B. R.

#### MR. FERRAND.—A PARLIAMENTARY EPISODE NINETEEN YEARS AGO.

On the 22nd of April, 1844—nineteen years ago—the House of Commons was sitting. The order of the day was the "Ten Hours Factories Bill, to go into Committee," and, upon motion made, Mr. Roebuck arose to ask the honourable member for Knaresborough, Mr. Ferrand, a question. It had been reported in the *Times* that at a certain meeting held at Leeds the honourable member for Knaresborough had charged Sir James Graham with having procured to be made by a Mr. Mott, a Poor-law Commissioner, a false report wherewith to crush him (Mr. Ferrand), and Mr. Roebuck wished to know the authority on which this assertion was made. Whereupon Mr. Ferrand rose, and made a speech, which not being satisfactory to Mr. Roebuck, this gentleman again got up and pressed for a distinct answer; and Mr. Ferrand again rose, and said, "I have performed my duty to the best of my ability, and I tell the hon. member for Bath that he is not going to school me. He has used language unbecoming him as a member of this House and as a gentleman." Cries of "Order, order!" and Mr. Speaker interfered, and exclaimed in peremptory tones, "The hon. member must retract the last words he used." Mr. Ferrand: "Certainly, Sir, as such is your decision. I shall say he has acted in a manner unbecoming his position as a member of this House. The words I uttered were these:—'That the hon. Baronet had taken steps to procure a false report, for the purpose of using it in this House to crush a member of this House.' Those words I used—those words I do not retract." Whereupon Sir James Graham made a speech, concluding thus:—"Considering that this assertion is made deliberately, I think it quite impossible, and I am quite sure that the hon. member will feel it to be impossible, that the matter can rest here, and I hope the hon. member is prepared to take the proper course to substantiate so grave a charge." Mr. Hume then got up and brought another charge against the member for Knaresborough—to wit, he had openly asserted "that Mr. James Weir Hogg, in his capacity of chairman of an election committee, to try a petition against the return of Mr. Walter, jun., the member for Nottingham, had, acting under the influence of Sir James Graham, albeit he (Mr. Hogg) had been sworn to impartiality at the table of the House, acted contrary to his conviction, and voted for the unseating of Mr. Walter." After this there were

several other speeches and considerable excitement, but no decision was come to that night. It seemed to be the general opinion that Mr. Ferrand ought to have time to make good his charge.

On the following night the question again came before the House, introduced by the member for Knaresborough. But he did not retract. On the contrary, he defended his right to use the words that he had uttered at Leeds, "as the sacred prerogative of a free-born Englishman, and positively refused to retract one syllable, or to explain away, or to extenuate a single sentence." "But if," he went on to say, "I have in making use of those expressions in any way wounded the personal honour of any member of the House, I—" (here a perfect storm arose of cheers and groans, possibly because it was thought that something like a challenge was coming; and when the storm subsided the honourable gentleman began another sentence). "Sir," he said, with great excitement of manner, "the party spirit and unmanly bearing which were exhibited towards me last night convince me, and must convince honourable gentlemen, that this House is the last tribunal for me or them to appeal to." Again the storm raged, and in the midst of it the honourable gentleman took up his hat, walked down the centre of the House, bowed to the Speaker, and made his exit through the front door. When he was gone there was a curious scene: at first a dead silence; then laughter long and loud broke forth; and it was not until after lengthened confusion that the House resumed, and then there was a long debate. And, at the recommendation of the Speaker, the business was postponed until the next night.

Nor was any decision come to on the following night; progress, however, was made; for the obnoxious charges, as reported in the *Times*, were read by the clerk at the table. Mr. Speaker demanded whether the accused was in his place, to which no answer was given, the hon. member not being present; and then a debate ensued, in which Mr. Disraeli, in one of his characteristic speeches, and Lord John Manners, and Mr. Smythe defended the accused. These gentlemen were, as will be remembered, members of that young England party which O'Connell once said was notable for very white waistcoats and very weak heads. This party has long since vanished into the mist, but it was conspicuous enough twenty years ago. Mr. Smythe is dead; the white waistcoats of the survivors have vanished; white hairs have come instead. The defenders, however, of the hon. member gained no ground, for the motion was carried *nem. con.* on Friday, the 26th. Now came the catastrophe. The House assembled. Mr. Speaker asked, in sonorous tones (it was Mr. Shaw Lefevre that occupied the chair), "Is Mr. William Busfield Ferrand in his place?" Mr. Ferrand replied, "I am, Sir;" and thereupon the clerk again read an extract from the notable Leeds speech, and Mr. Ferrand rose to make his defence. But he did not retract. He rather plunged deeper into the mire; for he called his accuser, Mr. Roebuck, a common informer. Here, however, he was met with such a blast of interruption that he was perforce compelled to recall the words. But the formal charge he would not deny. "He would retract the words, but not the sentiments," indeed, he refused to plead.

The Court, however, went on with its trial. Mr. Ferrand withdrew, at the request of the Speaker, and was followed by Sir James Graham and Mr. Hogg; and then a debate again ensued, in which there was nothing especially remarkable. Mr. Ferrand's friends seem to have deserted him, for nothing was done in his favour, except that Mr. F. French moved an amendment which could not get a second; and in a comparatively short time the House passed unanimously a resolution, the concluding and main part of which ran thus:—

"That the said Sir James Graham and James Weir Hogg, Esq., having in their places denied the imputation cast upon them, and William Busfield Ferrand, Esq., having avowed that he had used the said expressions, and having declined to substantiate the truth of the said expressions, are wholly unfounded and calumnious, and that they do not affect in the slightest degree the honour and character of the members to whom they applied."

And thus ended this remarkable episode. And now, perhaps, it may be asked why we have exhumed it from the pages of Hansard. The answer is, because the principal actor is again seen into political life. The Mr. William Busfield Ferrand who was elected for Devonport is the same Mr. Ferrand who was thus tried and condemned; and as everybody likes nowadays to know who's who, we have extracted this that our readers may know who Mr. Ferrand is.

#### THE SINGING-LESSON AT MINERVA HOUSE.

It is an interesting fact, admitted and taken advantage of by poets, and insisted upon and also taken advantage of by music-masters and schoolmistresses, that directly a young lady attains the age of fifteen her voice suddenly becomes full of promise. It begins by softening and expanding, then it overflows with expression and tenderness, and it ends by becoming mellow, earnest, and poetic. The piquant shrillness which, even at the age of fourteen, accompanies the voice of innocent girlhood gradually disappears, the acid head-notes changing to sugared tones given full from the chest. These changes are peculiar to the fifteenth year of the maiden's life.

In all well-regulated establishments for young ladies it is the duty of the lady principal to pay particular attention to the intonations of her pupils in the first and second classes, whilst repeating their lessons. Should the notes in any of the young ladies a singular gruffness of voice, she should instantly make strict inquiry as to whether the disagreeable change of utterance is due to sore-throat or sudden cold. If the altered intonations cannot be ascribed to either of these causes, then she may rest assured that the voice of her pupil is gradually breaking; and, after having supplied the child with a box of cough-lozenges, she should instantly consult the music-master, and order him to assist the larynx to his utmost in this its severest hour of trial. If properly managed, the "breaking" of the voice merely means that it will throw off and emerge from its huskiness, or shell, as it may be called, and astonish its friends and relations by its brilliancy and power.

We are willing to allow that every young lady of fifteen, or, generally to extend the allowance, that every demoiselle of from fifteen to eighteen and a half, possesses a sweet voice. She hath the charm of youth to sweeten her tones, and, should her hair be golden red or hazel brown, the man must indeed be black of heart and dead of soul who could find fault with her chirruping. The only drawback that can be, with any show of reason, urged against the perfectness of a voice of, say sixteen, is the want of cultivation, more especially when the voice of—let us say seventeen—is requested to sing, we will suppose, for argument's sake, a song containing the vocal difficulties of "Suoni la tromba." To obtain cultivation, it is obvious that the voice must be submitted to the directing influence of the cultivator, that is, the professor of singing. This is most desirable, but, from the susceptibility of the pupils, most dangerous.

At Minerva House, an excellent establishment, conducted under the admirable care and principles of Miss Ann Tropey, the utmost precaution was ever exhibited to preserve the interesting charges committed to her care from the dangers which surround the fascinations of the music-lesson. The interest she took in the welfare of her pupils caused her to listen to the voices of her young friends as intently as the beadle in church endeavours to find out which charity-boy is whispering. The moment Miss Ann Tropey detected a chest-note she wrote to parents and guardians, expatiating on the dawning qualities of Clara's or Julia's voice, and imploring, in terms which not even the slanderous idea of "extras" could rob of their disinterested enthusiasm, that the sweet girl might be placed under the care of Herr Prog, a gentleman of the highest standing in his art, an earnest promoter of the Tonic Sol-fa principles. Another recommendation which Miss Ann Tropey never failed to mention in her letters to the parents and guardians was that the Herr was a married gentleman and the father of nine children.

The songs usually indulged in by the young ladies at Miss Ann Tropey's establishment were, for the tenderest beginners, such simple exercises as Chorus—"See the Pretty Robin," or, Chorus—"Twinkle, twinkle;" but for the more advanced pupils, those with the chest-notes and the overflowing sympathies, solos of an ambitious yet humanising quality, were permitted—for instance, "O, list to the angel's whisper," and "Be kind to your mother, my dear."

Miss Ann Tropey had learnt from bitter experience how dangerous it was to allow the imagination of her pupils to be worked upon by an elegant head of hair, a curling moustache, and a tender voice. When first she became the lady-principal of Minerva House, she, foolish woman! engaged the services of that splendid creature, Signor Amavi, a gentlemanly man of thirty, with a pair of eyes which would have pierced through a steel busk. In less than three weeks the whole of the first class were in love with him. One poor victim wrote home for money sufficient to work the captivating terrors of a tobacco-bag; another slipped a lock of her hair into his coat-tail pocket as it dangled over the music-stool; and a third, and a fourth, and a fifth gazed on him with the softest melancholy, and sighed when he asked them to let him hear their "Si"! In those days love-songs were permitted, and Amavi taught his beautiful pupils such tender words as "I have loved until I faint, my dear," and "Look in my eyes and read my soul." They, dear ladies, never failed to obey him, and did look into his eyes to six-eight time, and think to themselves what splendid optics they were, and how full of expression. Such a state of things could not last long. Poor Sarah Jones began to walk in her sleep, and was found one night trying to open the hall window. She had, cherishes invalid! a small bundle of clean clothes tied up in a pocket-handkerchief, and after wards confessed that she had been dreaming of the Signor, and was hastening to meet him and fly to a distant land. Next music-day Signor Amavi was confronted in the reception-room by Miss Ann Tropey herself, bristling with indignation. The Signor was dismissed. He has never been employed since at any establishment for young ladies. He is too handsome. It is reported that he is starving. Mammas turn from him in dread, papas call him a puppy, and brothers threaten his bones. In vain does he offer to wear blue spectacles.

There was another Professor of Music at Minerva House who, judging from his diminutive stature and singularly plain features, ought to have been safe and secure from the attacks of the first and second class. This gentleman, Monsieur Gentil by name, was four feet six in height, and on his face he wore a nose almost longer than his arm. It, the nose, drooped over his beard and buried his chin in its shadow. But did he not sing and play on the piano? And what schoolgirl can resist such attractions? Before a month had passed the handsome Amavi was forgotten, and the dear Gustave stood on the pedestal to be worshipped and petted. He spoke the most delicious broken English; he sang little lively airs about the titled lady who eloped with the poor troubadour and never afterwards repented the marriage; he narrated to his pupils the incidents from the last successful French novel; and, worse than all, poor Miss Tropey, trusting in the little monster's ugliness, permitted him to address his pupils in French, "to practice their ears," as she said. Little did the injured lady dream of the tender, heart-moving dialogues that took place. She should have noticed how Julia's cheeks burned, and Mary's eyes sparkled. Little Kate, who was neglected—the child's teeth were faulty—trembled with jealousy, and Ellen—the squinted—protested, through sheer envy, that she would "tell." And "tell" she did, and only just in time, for when Julia's desk was broken open and Mary's box examined letters were found which made Miss Tropey profoundly grateful for escaping the danger that had beset her.

From that time to this the music-masters at Minerva House have always been selected from among the most venerable of professors. If he is repulsively ugly, so much the better; if he is lame, gouty, cross, and slovenly, Miss Ann Tropey considers him an ornament to his profession, and a credit to Minerva House and its long-established reputation.

A. M.

\* \* We have discovered that the article in our last week's *Femiletton* entitled "The Habillments of Grief from a Commercial Point of View," and which was forwarded to us by a person signing herself "Miss L. Breakey, Drumsell, Ballybay, in the county of Monaghan, Ireland," is extracted, almost word for word, from Dr. Wynter's interesting volume called "Our Social Bets," published by Mr. Hardwicke, of Piccadilly. We make this announcement in justice to Dr. Wynter, and to put other editors on their guard against the dishonest practices of Miss L. Breakey, who, in the note accompanying her article, referred to her contributions to other publications, and especially to the *Lady's Newspaper*, the publisher of which, she said, would answer any inquiries respecting her. No doubt the conductors of that paper have been among her dupes.

#### "THE HAUGIANS."

THE picture from which our Engraving is taken will be remembered as one of the most prominent of the works of Tidemand in the Norwegian division of the gallery at the International Exhibition, whither it was sent from the National Gallery of Christiania. Tidemand, who was born at Mandal in 1816, and was a pupil at the Academy of Copenhagen, may be said to be the greatest living exponent of Norwegian art, since he adds to an intimate knowledge of the common life of Norway that rare power of treating both humorous and serious subjects which he attained in the school of Hildebrandt, at Düsseldorf. Of his qualities of firm and solid colour, complete drawing, and admirable composition, "The Haugians" affords one of the best examples. It represents a congregation assembled in a Norwegian cottage to listen to the preaching of a peasant minister, one of a sect somewhat resembling in status and habits our Primitive Methodists.

The picture is full of a peculiar power, not only on account of the skill with which the figures are grouped, but in consequence of the strength and variety of expression by which the faces are characterised. The hearers are powerfully affected by the address to which they are listening—affected, too, in the manner which naturally belongs to each; and the preacher himself is remarkable for that half mystic, abstracted appearance which peculiarly belongs to the most earnest, and therefore most popular, preachers in communities of this description.

This sect is, of course, distinct from the Lutheran Established Church; but since 1845 religious liberty has been fully recognised for all Christian denominations, the Jews having had their disabilities removed in 1851. The ordinary churches of Norway resemble those of the Lutherans in Germany, but, the population being widely scattered, they frequently lie at a considerable distance, and the people have to make long journeys to attend Divine service.

It was formerly the custom of the Norwegian peasants to go to church armed, but this frequently resulted in a conflict between the people of rival districts, and has become entirely a thing of the past. Even now, however, a trial of skill and strength will occasionally occur between the men of two different valleys, who take their Sunday's duties as the most eligible opportunity for meeting and arranging their affairs after the service.

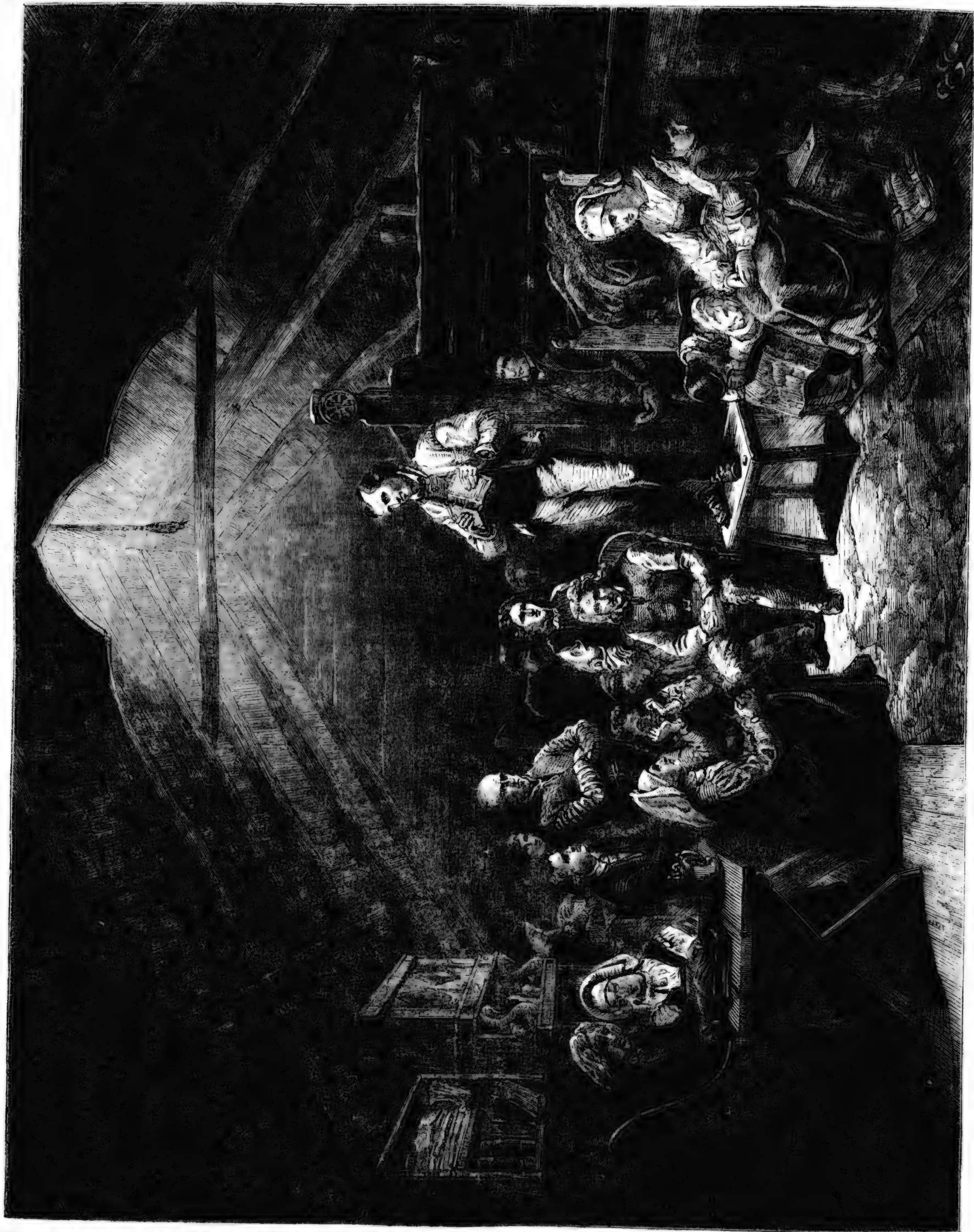
The hospitable and primitive customs of the country, combined with its wild and rugged scenery, render a journey in Norway one of the most picturesque and delightful in the world, and mountain-peaks, and gorges, rapid torrents and bare and lonely "fjelds," are traversed in the certainty of a hearty welcome at the journey's end, whether at the farmhouses or at the seers, those mountain dairies which correspond with the chalets of Switzerland.

The interior arrangements of many of the farm-buildings are primitive, but well adapted for the reception of tired or belated travellers, each room frequently containing three or four beds. The Norwegian peasant's bed is very short, and resembles a large wooden box on four short legs; the mattresses being formed of a quantity of hay, and the covering of a canvas sheet and a blanket or two. In beds of this construction two of the posts—a head and a foot on—are attached to a movable set of boards, which, when the posts are drawn out, form the bottom to the new part, and, a head and foot board sliding in and out with the rest of the expanding part, a perfect bed is formed of double the size of the original one. In a Norwegian cottage the large room on the ground floor is heated to an almost insupportable degree by a close stove, and, as weaving is one of the chief indoor employments of the peasant women, there are few houses, whether farm dwelling or cottage, where there is not a loom.

The "saeters" are clusters of dairies situated in the wild mountain districts, and often far removed from any other dwellings. They are welcome enough to the belated traveller, who frequently finds in



inches. The people of Norway ordinarily use no titles in conversation. Gentle- men and equals in ad- dressing each other, masters directing their servants, and servants speaking to their masters, make use of the surname of the party spoken to, or sometimes even of the Christian name. This may serve to illustrate the open and primitive character of the people, who, how- ever, are far from ex- hibiting any rudeness or want of proper respect." The cottage represented in Tve- mand's picture is one of the rudest and most primitive de- scription; and, in- deed, some of the dwellings in the wild and outlying villages are rude enough. Many of the farm- houses, however, are eminently comfort- able, and with the strange, old-fashioned customs of the in- mates, are interesting places to the tra- veller. The various storehouses of such an establishment con- tain the flat-bread in enormous piles, heaps of sheepskin rugs and bedcovers, and other necessities of country life: the dairy is a picture in itself; and, in all probability, some room in the upper story will be de- voted to a numerous assortment of crimi- nal garments, from fathers and grand- fathers, and seldom worn except upon high days and holi- days. To visit these treasures and to ex- amine the collection of plate and linen which is contained in the huge chests be- fore mentioned will save a morning plea- sanly enough till dinner time, when the "Vier so god spise" (be so good as to come to din- ner) of the hostess summons the visitor to the omelette, with slices of cold meat, the raspberries and milk, the "finkel" bottle, and the great stoneware pot which contains the beer—a generous repast, well meriting the "Tak for maden" (thanks for food) which is the courtesy addressed to the host on the part of some one of the guests as the signal for a gene- ral move.



A CONGREGATION OF "HAUGIANS."—(FROM A PICTURE, BY TIDEMAND, IN THE NATIONAL GALLERY, CHRISTIANIA.)

them an hospitable shelter. One of the Bovertun settlers is thus described in Mr. Wyndham's "Fields of Norway":—"Sloping low as we entered the little door of one of the buildings we found ourselves in a mode- rately sized room, in which a couple of young girls were sitting at work kni- ting stockings. On the rude fireplace in one corner of the room a few logs of wood were burning with a cheerful blaze; against one of the walls stood the bed, and opposite was a small deal table while the bare ground com- posed the floor. Our request to be allowed to pass the night at the settlers having been granted with the usual goodwill, we further begged that one of the settlers should be placed entirely at our disposal, and that the 'pige' (maid- servant) belonging to it should take up her quarters in the other building.

"On the whole, with the exception of the damp earth floor, the rafter proved to be very comfortable. It was constructed, not of stones, as the settlers near Sandvig, but of good sized timber put together after the usual Norse fashion. Solid trunks of trees compose the walls. About six inches from the end of each 'log' a notch, cut to a depth of about half the thickness of the tim- ber, receives the end of the log laid at right angles to it; and to this log, in its turn, is adjusted the end of another. Thus log is laid upon log all round in succession, the chinks being filled up with moss; and when the walls have attained a sufficient height apertures for the doors and win- dows are sawn out, and rafters are put up to support the roof. Upon the rafters is now fas- tened a layer of boards placed trans- versely, with the edges simply touch- ing; and above this again comes a layer of birch bark, each piece overlapping the other. At the top of all is then thrown a quantity of earth and stones to the depth of several



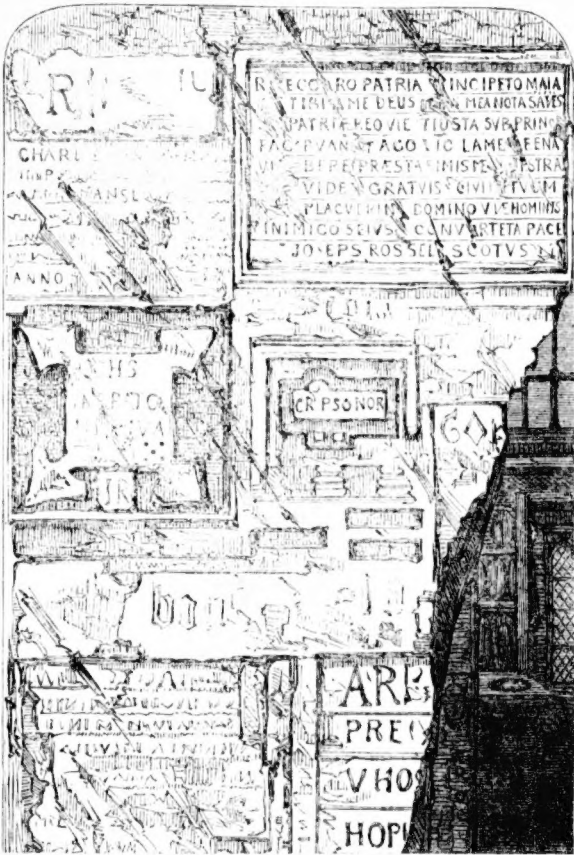
PRISONERS' MARKS IN THE BLOODY TOWER.

DURING the last half century great changes have been made throughout the Tower of London; many parts have been entirely rebuilt; the great Elizabethan armoury has been destroyed by fire, and a structure, almost as unsightly, built on its site; several of the towers have been demolished and reared again on something like their ancient plan; but, as regards the Beauchamp Tower, it is satisfactory to note that it has been most carefully and beautifully restored, and, although it now presents a somewhat new aspect, all the ancient details have been carefully preserved, in both the interior and exterior parts. It is well that this has been done, for we have now in a fine state of preservation the numerous quaint and curious carvings and devices which the prisoners who have been confined here have cut upon the walls as records of their sufferings. Some of these inscriptions, &c., are remarkable for the skill shown in their execution, and all have much interest. Several prisoners' marks have been found in other parts of the Tower, but to those in the Engraving we must now particularly direct attention.

The exterior of the Bloody Tower, in which these inscriptions have been recently discovered, has been little altered, and presents a grim and ancient appearance. The massive oak gates, clamped and strengthened with iron; the portcullis, with the machinery by which it can now be worked, still remain at the river side of this entrance to the inner balium. The stonework is black and weatherbeaten, and presents a gloomy and picturesque appearance, which is in harmony with the historical associations connected with this spot.

Within this tower it is said the youthful King Edward V. and his still younger brother the Duke of York were put to death by direction of the Duke of Gloucester. There has, however, been much discussion respecting the truth of this tradition. Some time since human bones were found in the guard or gatekeepers' room, which is in the basement part of this tower; and other bones, believed to have been those of youthful persons, were discovered, in the reign of Charles II., below the passage which leads to the chapel in the White Tower. These were removed and reinterred in Westminster Abbey, and an inscription placed over the remains by order of the King. There is also an account given of some other bones which were found in a chamber in one of the turrets of the Norman Keep, which by some were supposed to have been those of the unfortunate Princes; but it was found on examination that these bones were those of a large monkey, which had probably escaped from the Royal menagerie and died in this place.

As regards the precise spot where the murder of those Princes took place, it is not likely that any satisfactory information will ever be obtained. We have, however, the account by Sir Thomas More, which was written not long after the terrible deed was done,



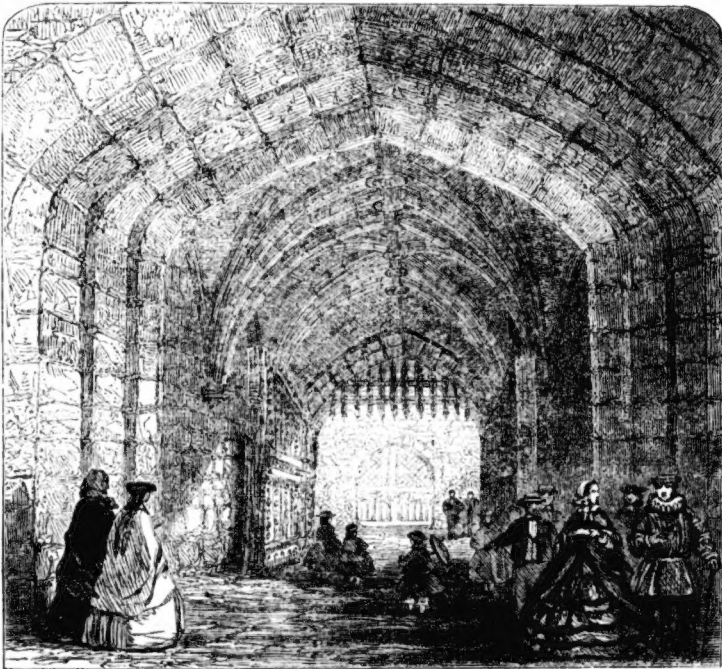
RECENTLY-DISCOVERED PRISONERS' MARKS IN THE BLOODY TOWER, TOWER OF LONDON.

that it was executed in this tower; and it is probable that it was in consequence of the traditions connected with this event the building derived its present name. In former times, eastward of this tower, on the site now occupied by offices and storehouses, stood the buildings which for several centuries had been occupied as the Royal palace. The apartments within the White Tower were chiefly used on state occasions. The local tradition is that the children were murdered in the upper chamber in this tower; and it is not improbable that there may formerly have been a means of communication between this apartment and the King's house.

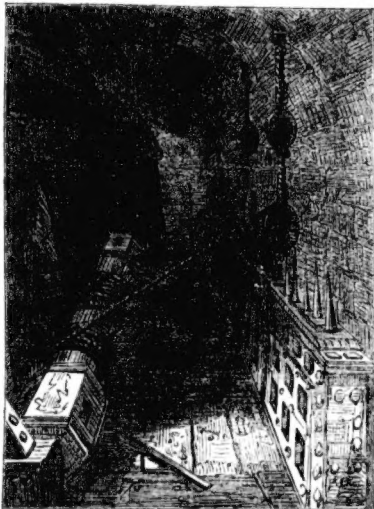
On the eastern side of this gateway a small door opens to the little guardroom to which we have above referred. From here a flight of steps leads to the rooms above. This passage is now, however, built up; so we are forced to proceed round by the Tower Green to the entrance near the Lieutenant's lodgings. On entering here, we find the machinery for raising and lowering the portcullis. This space has been divided by a partition which seems to be of no great antiquity. On the left hand is a room used as a kitchen and sitting-room by one of the yeomen of the guard, who lives here. Near this, in a deep recess formed in the thickness of the wall, is a window looking towards the "green;" this recess now serves the purpose of a scullery; and in the wall here, underneath a thick coating of plaster and whitewash, the adjoining inscriptions were discovered. The principal inscription has been much damaged by a pickaxe, or some such instrument, and in many parts the letters are so much defaced that it is not possible to decipher them. It is clear, however, that one is the sad complaint of a certain Joseph Rossel, a Scotchman, and, as near as can be made out, may be rendered into English as follows:—

"I, a prisoner for the sake of my country and my chief, who have suffered evils, commit myself to Thee, O Supreme Almighty God! My ills are known to Thee, which is enough—for my father being a prisoner, having passed his life in loyal service to his chief, perished in time of peace, therefore watch over me and scrutinise . . . thine, may it please the Lord of the life of man to incline his enemies to peace. JOSEPH ROSSEL (a Scot)."

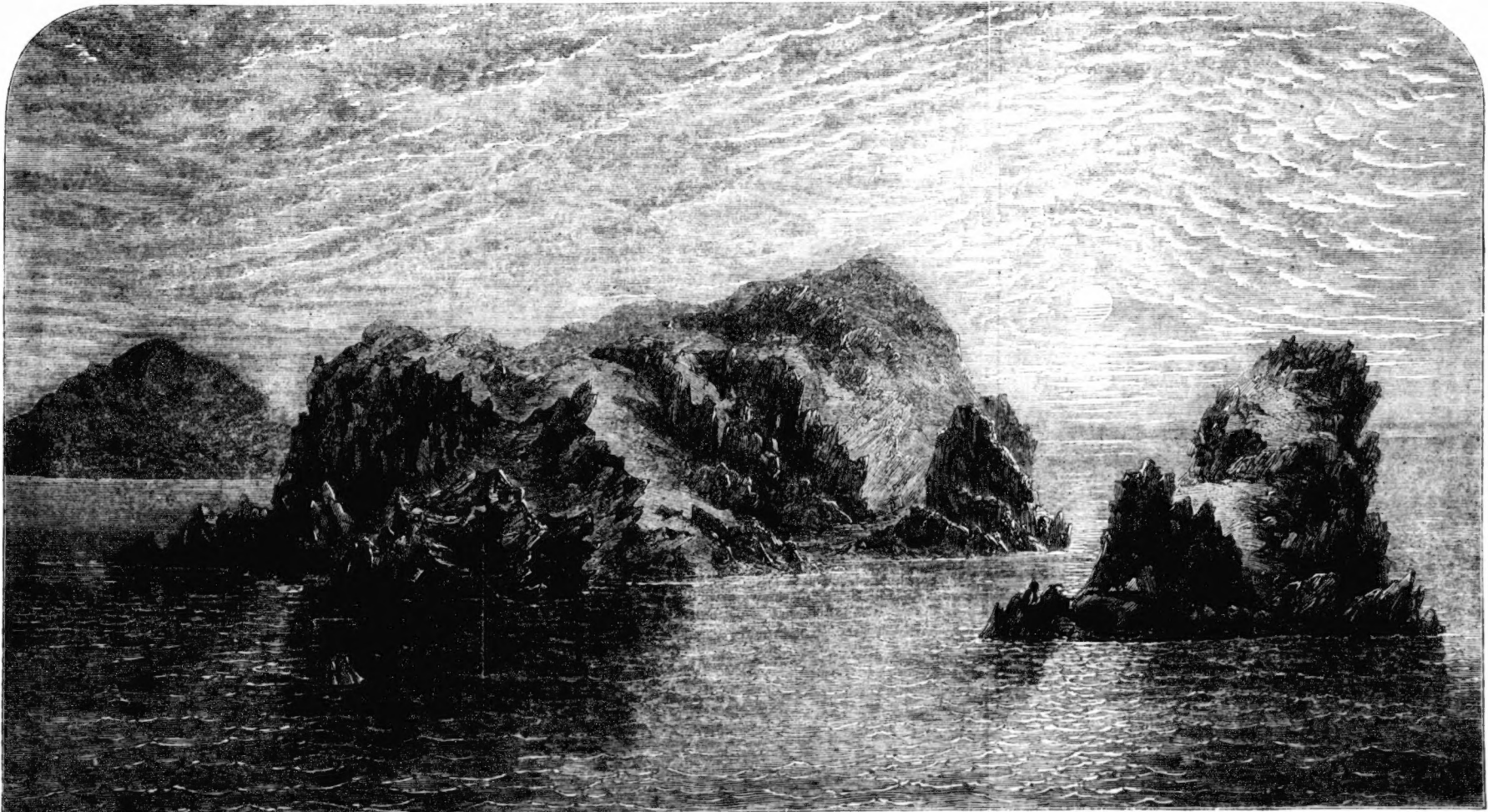
We have made diligent search in the histories of the Tower for some account of this prisoner, but, although several persons of consequence have been confined here, we have not been able to meet with this name amongst them. In some other parts are the letters C. R., which have probably reference to Charles I., and the inscriptions have probably been the work of prisoners captured in Scotland during Oliver Cromwell's wars. The upper rooms have been much modernised, the walls are gaily papered, and the furniture, pictures, &c., of such a modern fashion that old associations are in a great measure destroyed.



GATEWAY OF THE BLOODY TOWER.



APPARATUS FOR RAISING AND LOWERING THE PORTCULLIS OF THE BLOODY TOWER.



THE ISLANDS OF THE ANTIPODES.—(FROM A SKETCH BY DAVID SMITH, MASTER OF THE SHIP WILLIAM INGLIS.)



## OUR ANTIPODES.

SPEAKING vaguely, the words "our antipodes" are applied indiscriminately to Australia and New Zealand, and the changes which have been wrought in these places by the influences of civilisation and colonial settlements are said to have been the results of English enterprise extended to our "remote antipodes." In good truth, however, our antipodes remain as little changed, except by natural forces, since the day when Tasman entered Murder Bay, in 1642, or Captain Cook explored the wonderful islands of New Zealand and became acquainted with the customs of their savage inhabitants, more than a hundred and twenty years afterwards. The actual antipodes of England consists of the islands represented in our Engraving situated to the south-east of New Zealand, in the South Pacific Ocean. Their latitude, according to the calculation of Mr. David Smith, the master of the William Inglis, from whose sketch our Engraving is taken, is 49 deg. 40 min. south, and their longitude 179 deg. 4 min. east.

It is curious to reflect that for centuries there were fierce and learned arguments waged upon the probabilities of the existence of any antipodal region, or of the spherical shape of the earth. Lactantius, who lived in 311, asks in his "De Falsa Sapientia":—"Is there any one foolish enough to think that there are men whose feet are higher than their heads? With whom those things that we place upon the earth hang downwards from the earth? Who have trees and vegetables turned upside down, and rain and snow falling the wrong way? Will any one henceforward place the hanging gardens among the Seven Wonders of the World when the philosophers make hanging seas and fields, and cities, and mountains?"

Antipodal places have the same climate so far as that depends merely on latitude; but of course have all the seasons, as well as the days and nights, reversed.

This last necessity has, even in our own day, raised a common question as to whether, at our antipodes, the noon of any day is the midnight of the previous or of the following day in England. The answer must depend entirely upon the direction taken by the traveller, since any one starting from London for the antipodal islands eastward through Europe and Asia sets out to meet the sun in the morning, and will consequently overtake noon earlier than if he remained stationary. On the other hand, the westward traveller going through America, has his back to the sun, and reaches its meridian later. Supposing each to have started on the same day, there would be, if they met at the antipodes, a difference of an entire day between their reckonings, one having lost, the other gained, twelve hours. The day of the week at any particular place, in relation to its antipodes, will therefore depend upon the route taken by the first settlers. On the islands here represented, which are the nearest antipodal land to London, there is little probability of any such computation, since the central and largest of the three is but a succession of rocky ridges some six or seven miles long and three or four broad. There is no place at which a boat's crew can well effect a landing, and on Captain Smith's visit not a living thing could be seen upon its rugged surface.

## OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. BALFE'S new work, slightly curtailed, and entitled, with evident propriety, not "The Armourer's Daughter," but "The Armourer of Nantes"—the place where the armourer lives—is drawing large audiences to the Royal English Opera. It contains a great deal of very interesting and beautiful music, which—now that some of the minor pieces have been omitted—can be listened to with pleasure from beginning to end. Miss Pyne, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Santley—in short, all the principal singers—enter with greater spirit into their parts now that those parts have been reduced to moderate dimensions; and, as far as the singing is concerned, the execution of the opera is all that could be desired. An ingenious critic, however, has well remarked that "The Armourer of Nantes," like the play upon which it is built (Victor Hugo's "Marie Tudor"), is essentially a tragic drama; that not a tragic actor can be pointed out in the whole of the Covent Garden company; and that the music, however it may enliven certain situations where the action is at a temporary standstill, is unable altogether to dissipate the illusion that we are witnessing a spectacle of horrors. Librettist and composer have certainly both done their best with the subject; but it is not one that is especially well suited for operatic treatment. Our Engraving represents one of the most interesting scenes of the opera.

Opera subscribers are already beginning to ask what singers are engaged for the next Italian season at Covent Garden. Patti, of course, and probably nearly all the vocalists who belonged to Mr. Gye's company last year. The weakness of this troop (in many respects excellent) is in the sopranos, in spite of Mdle. Patti; and in the contraltos, in spite of Mdme. Nantier-Didié. Mr. Gye has not for some years had a good "robust" soprano (we do not know whether the expression is technically correct, but it conveys our meaning), nor can Mdme. Nantier-Didié, however clever, be looked upon as a contralto of the first class. As director of an operatic establishment which has long been one of the first in Europe, Mr. Gye ought to make it his business to engage a singer capable of playing such parts as Donna Anna, Valentine, Norma, and Luciezia. It is very easy to say that no such singer can be found, but surely Mdle. Titiens would not have escaped Mr. Gye for the last half dozen years if he had ever appreciated her great talent, and had clearly understood that he had no one to be compared to her in his company. No one imagines that Mdme. Grisi, during the last few years of her engagement, was at all fitted for the post she occupied at the Royal Italian Opera. Mr. Gye himself did not think so, or her engagement would not have been discontinued. Now, who has replaced Mdme. Grisi, and who is to replace her next season? In a pecuniary point of view it will no doubt be unnecessary to make any great efforts to secure a really first-rate soprano of the "robust" species, inasmuch as Mdle. Patti's name will alone suffice to fill the subscription-list. But it is short-sighted policy to reckon on the attractiveness of any one singer, and for the prestige of the theatre it is most desirable that the most important parts in some of the most admired operas of the day should not be intrusted to such vocalists as Mr. Gye has confided them to of late. As for Mdme. Nantier-Didié, she undoubtedly possesses great merit, and is a most useful member of the company, to which she has now belonged for many years. But she can no more be compared to Mdle. Trebelli than Mdme. Penco can be compared to Mdle. Patti. Mr. Gye has shown a curious facility for missing unknown singers of the highest ability. Giogini, Titiens, Trebelli, have all slipped through his hands. By what accident he engaged Mdle. Patti is a mystery to us. It is the most fortunate accident, however, that has happened to him in the whole course of his management, and will enable him to indulge in numerous oversights as long as Mdle. Patti's engagement lasts. In the meanwhile the public must do Mr. Gye the justice of acknowledging a certain spirit of fair play which distinguishes his management. He likes to give rival managers a chance. Without Mdle. Titiens or Mdle. Trebelli, Mr. Mapleson could not have opened Her Majesty's Theatre last season. Mr. Gye took care to leave him both.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.—The Army Estimates for the year have been issued. The reduction on the estimates of last year amount, as in the case of the Navy, to a trifle over a million, making, as far as yet appears, a reduction of two millions on the year's expenses. The reduction is on the effective service, the non-effective service showing a slight increase. The estimates for the volunteer force are £200,000 above those of last year, preliminary. It is supposed, to the adoption of the suggestions contained in the report of the Royal Commissioners.

MEETING OF MARSHAL CANROBERT AND HIS BRIDE.—At the close of the Crimean War a ball was given at the residence of M. Magne, then Minister of Finance. The Marshal, on entering one of the rooms, saw a young and charming person, dressed in pink and crowned with flowers, who came up to him and invited him for the next dance. "Monsieur le Maréchal," she said, "deign to regard me as a Russian, and make me—dance!" "Impossible, Mademoiselle," replied the Marshal, "there is an armistice." "And an amnesty for my boldness, I hope?" The warrior offered his arm to the lady to lead her to her place, but on the way he met a young officer. "Here, Monsieur," said the Marshal, "take your place in the quadrille with this lady, and remember that this night a Marshal of France has envied a Sub-Lieutenant." The lady was Mdle. Flora Macdonald, who lately married the Marshal.—Paris Monde Illustré.

## PREPARATIONS FOR THE RECEPTION OF PRINCESS

## ALEXANDRA.

## PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.

The King of Denmark arrived at Copenhagen, on Tuesday, from Fredericksburg, where his Majesty was residing, in order to present Princess Alexandra with the wedding present his Majesty had ordered to be prepared. The present consists of a diamond necklace, to which is attached a facsimile of the celebrated Dagmar cross, described elsewhere. During the whole of the forenoon the Princess received deputations bringing wedding gifts to her Royal Highness. Princess Alexandra has allotted a sum of 3000 dols. to be apportioned as dowry among six brides belonging to the poorer classes.

Her Royal Highness was suffering from a severe cold, but it was hoped she would, nevertheless, be able to commence her journey on Thursday.

The ladies who have been honoured by being selected as bridesmaids to Princess Alexandra are said to be—Lady Victoria Scott, Lady Elma Bruce, daughter of Lord Elgin; Lady Victoria Here, sister of Lord Listowel; Lady Georgiana Susan Hamilton, daughter of the Marquis of Abercorn; Lady Agnetta Yorke, daughter of Lord Hardwicke; Lady Constance Villiers, daughter of Lord Clarendon; Lady Victoria Campbell, Lady Theodora Grosvenor, Lady E nestine Mount-Edgumbe, and Lady Feodorowna Wellesley.

## ARRANGEMENTS AT GRAVESEND.

As already announced in our columns, Princess Alexandra will arrive in England on Saturday, the 7th of March, and will meet with a public and enthusiastic reception. She will land at the Terrace Pier, Gravesend, and proceed thence to London.

If the weather be fine the sight at Gravesend will be magnificent and impressive in the highest degree. It may be assumed that the beauty and interest of the display will concentrate on the pier, which is to be fitted up as an elegant pavilion, gaily decorated with flags. On each side will rise tiers of benches, which, we need hardly say, will be completely filled with a privileged assembly of spectators, each one of whom may very safely be counted against a score of disappointed applicants for tickets. The band of young ladies, graduating in age from fourteen to eighteen years, who will have the honour of strewing flowers before the Royal bride will muster as many as sixty members. The fair troop will be alternately ranged in the well-contrasted white and red, thus gracefully symbolising the nation of Denmark. By way of agreeably varying the sameness which this juxtaposition would present, a certain proportion of blue will be introduced in the cloaks of the young ladies. A scene almost as striking will be afforded at the station of the South-Eastern Railway Company; and the routes between point and point will be one continued avenue of laurels, banners, streamers, and devices of every kind. Outdoor seats are to be erected on the footway of Harmer-street, so that the multitude of faces gathered at the windows and in every accessible space will be supplemented by many more on each side of the road. At every forty feet, right and left, will be placed high poles, decked forth with emblematic ornamentation of the most elaborate character, which, extending from pole to pole across the way, will form an almost magical perspective. At the point where the Grove joins Milton-road, at the top of Harmer-street, a four-ribbed arch will span each intersection; and at the end of the Grove, facing Harmer-street, a handsome stand will be erected, to which admission will also be by ticket.

## LONDON.

It will be satisfactory to the public to know that such arrangements will be made as will admit of Princess Alexandra arriving off Gravesend on Friday night, instead of at noon on Saturday, as previously announced. Her Royal Highness will thus be enabled to have a night's rest before commencing the fatigues of the long and brilliant reception which awaits her. If this arrangement is carried out the Princess will probably land at Gravesend about ten o'clock on Saturday morning, and will thus be enabled to reach Windsor before dusk. The Prince of Wales will meet her Royal Highness at Gravesend, and proceed with her by railway to the Bricklayers' Arms station, where the Royal party will be received by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and members of the reception committee, Aldermen, and Common Councillors, as a deputation, and that the remainder of the Corporation who may take part in the procession will fall in at the entrance to the City on London Bridge. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will wear their State robes, and the State carriages of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will be brought into requisition. The illustrious visitors will no doubt be pleased to find that the time-honoured custom of presenting a long and stilted address will be dispensed with on this occasion. The Prince and Princess will receive on a future day the felicitations of the Corporation on their marriage, and the expression of their loyal wishes for their future happiness and prosperity.

London Bridge will be decorated from end to end, the recesses on each side being made use of to form the basis of suitable displays of flags, and trophies, and statues. There will be a triumphal arch erected on the north side of the bridge, over the dry arch of Thames-street. This will remain standing until after the Royal marriage, on the night of which it will be brilliantly illuminated. The Monument will also be illuminated. A very splendid effect might be produced by a spiral line of gas jets winding up the body of the column and terminating with lines of gas upon the summit. At Guildhall and Temple Bar there will be illuminations upon a very extensive and elaborate scale; and Temple Bar, through which the Royal procession will pass, will be treated as a triumphal arch, and profusely covered with decorations. For the thousands of spectators who will be anxious to see Princess Alexandra abundant accommodation will be provided at every open space of ground. In the front of the Fishmongers' Hall there will be staging provided for about 500 persons, and in front of the Mansion House a gallery for 400 people will be constructed. The whole of the open space within the inclosure on the east, south, and west sides of St. Paul's Cathedral will be occupied by seats, rising tier over tier, and with canopies, for the accommodation of about 10,000 people, including the Dean and Chapter, the governing bodies of the whole of the livery companies, with their friends, 600 boys from the City of London School, and 100 belonging to the Orphan School. Refreshment and retiring rooms will be provided in connection with this giant platform. The construction of this staging will cost at least £7000.

The borough of Southwark will make a very imposing display, for they have not only been roused into a state of activity by the knowledge of what the city of London is about to do, but have discovered that they have claims to precedence in the procession over the more fortunate citizens who can boast a Lord Mayor and Sheriffs and the whole paraphernalia of a municipal corporation. It has been decided that a triumphal arch shall be erected at the junction of the Old and New Kent-roads, and another opposite St. George's Church.

Westminster arrangements keep pace with the plans and devices of the City and the borough of Southwark. In accordance with a resolution passed at a meeting of the vestry of St. James's parish, a deputation waited upon the reception committee on Saturday last, and stated that the inhabitants were anxious to co-operate in every way with the civic authorities in order to give a worthy reception to Princess Alexandra; and it was arranged that Westminster should be duly represented at Temple Bar by the High Bailiff and burgesses of the city of Westminster, and probably also by the Duke of Buccleuch, who holds the office of Lord High Steward. Along Pall-mall the windows and balconies of the clubs will be draped, and the fine thoroughfare will on this occasion present a really magnificent appearance. Perhaps, however, the great centre of attraction will be in Hyde Park, where there will be not only an immense concourse of spectators, but a fine gathering of volunteers. As country corps will be permitted to attend, it is as yet impossible to tell what number of rifles may be expected to take part in this affair; but from 18,000 to 20,000 may be calculated upon.

The volunteers will muster in considerable force on different parts of the line. The Kentish volunteers will form a guard of honour at Gravesend; the 1st Surrey will be stationed in Southwark; the City of London Rifles and London Artillery Company will be massed in the open space opposite the Mansion House and at King William-street; and, as stated, in Hyde Park there will be a very large muster of the metropolitan and provincial corps.

## TOM THUMB'S WEDDING.

NEW YORK was for the whole of the 10th inst. in a flutter of excitement. Broadway swarmed with crowds that blocked the passage. At Grace Church there was a jam of vehicles, and the police had the utmost difficulty in preserving order amid a multitude of almost frantic women—clamouring, shouting, and pressing to force their way into the sacred edifice. Opposite the Metropolitan Hotel was another multitude, gazing up at the windows and refusing to move on until they had obtained a sight of some highly popular, if not great, personage. In the evening there was a serenade to another crowd. What, it may be asked, was the matter? Was Richmond taken? No. Was Charleston captured, and had the victorious Admiral Dupont returned to receive the laurel wreath at the hands of his countrymen? No. Had Mr. Jefferson Davis held out the right hand of fellowship to Mr. Abraham Lincoln, and restored the Union, and were both these mighty personages in secret session, waiting to show themselves at the proper time to the impatient and grateful people? No. It was but the marriage of a male and a female dwarf, under the auspices of Mr. Phineas T. Barnum, that set the mob of New York wild with delight and enthusiasm. General Tom Thumb, thirty-one inches high, had married Miss Lavinia Warren, twenty-seven inches high, while Barnum had given away the bride. The bride-maid was Miss Minnie Warren, sixteen years of age, weighing nineteen pounds, and 25 inches high; the bridegroom being attended by "Comodore Mill," who stands thirty inches in his boots! President Lincoln, General McClellan, and Mr. Seward might have walked down Broadway arm in arm at the time, and excited no notice. The heart of New York was not in them, nor in the war, but was set on the marriage of two *lusus nature*, under the auspices of a charlatan. If it be true that every tragedy ought to have the elements of a farce in it, the tragedy of the great American civil war conforms to the esthetic necessity, and the philosophic observer may laugh or weep at the exhibition, as his nature prompts him.

Passing over the antecedents of the bridegroom, who will be remembered by many readers as having visited this country some years ago, it may be stated that the bride, Miss Lavinia Warren, is a lineal descendant of the Warrens of revolutionary memory. She was born in Middleboro', Plymouth County, Mass., Oct. 31, 1842, and is, therefore, now twenty-one years of age. Until Lavinia was a year old she was of the usual size; from that time she increased in stature slowly, and ceased growing entirely when she was ten years of age. Her personal appearance is stated to be very prepossessing, and her "smile is sweet and expressive;" and her "figure, hand, and foot, in shape such as any woman might be proud of." The little General, who was brought out by the well-known Barnum when about ten years of age, made sufficient by his tour in the States, in England, and on the Continent, to enable him to live at ease with his parents in Bridgeport, where he developed into "a good citizen, a sensible man, and a good fellow generally." Immediately after the ceremony the party returned to the Metropolitan Hotel, where arrangements had been made for a public reception. Four parlours were thrown open on the second floor, in the largest one of which the General and his lady, Commodore Nutt, and Miss Minnie Warren received the guests, standing on a carpeted platform which extended down the side of the room. Visitors entered at one door, shook hands with the bride and bridegroom, and were then passed through and out into the parlours beyond, where the bridal presents were displayed. Following the same order they proceeded along in a line by a large glass case, which contained all the smaller articles, and then, having arrived at their end of the show, broke into groups or took their way back again, each lady receiving an elegant little box of cake as she passed out of the door. The reception was announced from one until three o'clock, but it was dark before the hand-shaking was over, and then crowds lingered unwilling to quit the scene of attraction. Doubtless the little people were weary enough before it was concluded, and, in fact, the finale was announced by General Tom Thumb himself, who assisted his bride from the platform, declaring that he had had enough of that and wanted his dinner.

## TERRIBLE COLLIERY ACCIDENT.

AN appalling colliery accident, attended by the death of three men, has happened near Wednesbury, Staffordshire, at Steer's Meadow Colliery, out of which the thick coal was taken many years since. At that time a portion of the old workings took fire. A formidable dam, consisting of earth and timber, was, however, erected, and by this means the fire was kept within a prescribed limit. Skirting the side of this partly disused colliery runs the River Tame, which at this point is about twenty feet in breadth and five or six feet in depth. The ceaseless action of the smouldering and pent-up fire has lately occasioned the surface to give way in several places, and at late hour on Thursday week a subsidence of this description happened so near to the Tame that a portion of the bank was destroyed, and the water rushed into the abyss occasioned by the subsidence of the surface down an old and hitherto unobserved pit-shaft, destroyed the dam before alluded to, and thus obtained free way to the other portions of the colliery. These were being worked for the ribs and pillars of the thick coal, and for the seams below it; and at the time of the accident there were engaged in the thick coal seam John Pitt, aged fifty; William Gettings, twenty-four; and Edward and Job Jones, both brothers, and aged respectively twenty and fifteen. Excepting only the boy Job Jones, all these persons have by this accident lost their lives. From the account given by this youth, who was recovered at about half-past six on Saturday morning, after having been in the pit thirty-six hours, during three-quarters of which all hope of escape seemed to have been cut off, we learn that he and his companions were all steadily at work, unapprehensive of any danger, when between eight and nine o'clock Gettings hearing the noise occasioned by the destruction of the dam, the falling in of one side of the workings, and the on-rushing of the water, gave the alarm, and himself, with Pitt, immediately made their way to a higher level. In his terror Edward Jones ran towards the shaft by which he had descended, and thus to an instant death, for the water was now pouring in between the spot upon which he had been engaged and the bottom of the shaft. The three others remained at the highest point of the workings, until the water had risen so high as to touch the breast of the lad. The youth, after they had remained together about an hour, suggested that probably he might be able to climb the almost precipitous side of a rocky eminence in the workings, upon the summit of which, if they could gain it, they would all be safe. By a desperate spring the boy succeeded in clutching a protuberance of the rock above him, and by a continued and, as he imagines, a supernatural effort, gained the desired spot. Pitt and Gettings essayed to follow their youthful leader, but being less agile and of greater weight failed in every attempt. This fearful struggling for life lasted about an hour, when, in the darkness, the boy heard the last splash and the last plunge. The poor lad now realised that he alone remained alive in the terrible position we have described. He remained in this state of suspense and agony for upwards of thirty hours. During that time painful and intense excitement prevailed upon the surface. The river had, by an artificial bank, been kept from flowing any longer into the chasm before described, the water in the pit had drained into the lower workings, the smouldering portion of the mine was fanned into a blaze, and the flames, rushing up the old shaft and leaping high above the earth, threw a horrid glare over the anxious throng of several thousand persons who crowded the spot. Simultaneously workmen were attempting to reach the higher workings, where it was correctly expected the men would seek refuge. By three o'clock on Saturday morning the youthful survivor heard the approach of the band of men who sought his rescue. He was received on the surface by the hearty shouts of the assembled multitude, and into the embraces of his parents. He was forthwith attended by a surgeon who was in waiting, and is gradually recovering.

The corpses of Pitt and Gettings were afterwards brought up, but that of the survivor's brother is still in the shaft, and supposed to be buried beneath the debris of the dam and the side of the working that fell with it. The fire in the workings beneath the surface still continues to rage, and, as the supporting pillars of coal are consumed, the buildings above are giving way, and on Monday last the blacksmith's hovel was entirely prostrated. The adjacent erections also lean considerably, and are shortly expected to come to the ground. As no smoke was perceptible on Sunday last, it was conjectured that the fire was lessening. Since that time, however, the opening caused by the first crowning-in on the site of the old shaft has considerably widened, and from the cavity smoke of a light colour is emitted in dense volumes. The appearance of the earth forming the sides of this fissure is a sufficient indication of the heat to which it has been subjected by the influence of the flames. A number of men are now engaged in filling up the whole of the cavity in order completely to inclose the fire, and thus to prevent the ingress of any current of air. It is, however, thought by many persons that a general crowning-in or subsidence of the whole surface is inevitable. Persons well acquainted with the locality account for the dangerous proximity of the old shaft to the river by asserting that within the last few years the course of the stream has been diverted from the channel in which it originally flowed many yards further distant.

THE DISTRESS IN THE NORTH.—At the weekly meeting of the General Central Relief Committee, held in Manchester on Monday, Mr. Commissioner Farnall reported that on the 14th inst. there was a decrease in the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the twenty-seven unions in the cotton-manufacturing districts, as compared with the number so relieved in the previous week of 3740, so that a total net decrease of 53,617 has taken place since the 6th of December last. The monthly report of the executive committee was read and adopted. The hon. secretary reported that 51 sales of clothing, 9055 barrels of provisions, and 1 hamper of wine had been sent off to various distressed places in the course of last week. The total amount received last week was £22,305 11s. 9d.; and the balance in the bank on the general account was £418,166 9s. 2d.; and on the New South Wales account, £13,939 8s. 6d.; making a total of £432,095 17s. 8d.

SIR E. LANDSEER AND THE BRONZE LIONS.—Sir Edwin Landseer has at length commenced work on the models of the bronze lions, which are to complete the Nelson Monument, in Trafalgar-square. The size is gigantic—twenty feet from the muzzle to the root of the tail. Sir Edwin having procured the use of a portion of his friend Baron Marochetti's studio, has shut himself up for the last two months, and there, with no one to aid him except the man who moistens his clay (in the modelling sense), has been working up to the eyes in his new material.



## LAW AND CRIME.

**THE OLD LAW AS TO INSOLVENCY FORMED** a few days since the subject of an investigation in the Bankruptcy Court, in the matter of Mr. Edmund O'Rourke, commonly known as Mr. Edmund O'Rourke, the present lessee of Drury Lane, Mr. O'Rourke was insolvent in 1850, when his debts were £3360. He was discharged under the Insolvent Court; but recently Mr. William Calcott, a creditor, has caused a notice to be served upon him to the effect that his present property, consisting among other items of the lease of Drury Lane Theatre, money in the funds, the well-known views of Killarney, and the insolvent's copyrights and furniture, were claimed as available for payment of the debts set forth in his schedule. There has been some discussion hereupon as to the effect of the object and effect of that statute may, perhaps, be useful. The old distinction between bankruptcy and insolvency was that, while the former operated, as now, as a final release of all claims upon the debtor, the latter only postponed the enforcement of such claims until the bankrupt should be in possession of the means of payment, in full or otherwise. Every insolvent, upon filing his petition, was compelled to sign a warrant of attorney authorising his assignees under the insolvency to sign judgment if so directed by the Insolvent Court, and to execute execution for the amount of the debts scheduled. Upon the application of any creditor, and upon affidavit, disclosing, *prima facie* only, the possession of property by the insolvent, the latter might be compelled to make a statement upon oath of his assets liable to such execution. If the assets were such as not to be capable of seizure by the Sheriff, the insolvent was liable to capture and imprisonment. Although the insolvent practice is now superseded by the last Bankruptcy Act, the rights of creditors under the old system still remain in force, and the powers of the Insolvent Court are vested in the Commissioners of Bankruptcy. Much has been said in this matter about "after-acquired property," (1 and 2 Vic., cap. 110), which only indicates the practice as we have described it. It will be seen from this that the powers conferred by it are not given merely to a single creditor, who may happen to be vigilant and hostile, but can only be exercised by the assignee representing and acting for the benefit of the whole body of creditors. The Statute of Limitations is no bar to an application for judgment and execution. In this case Mr. Commissioner Holroyd directed Mr. O'Rourke to file within one month a balance-sheet setting forth the present state of his property. This, when so filed, will be accessible to all the creditors. It may be mentioned, however, that liabilities incurred subsequently to the insolvency are considered as a bar for an equivalent amount to execution against so much of the property as they may be held to cover. This fact may serve to explain why Mr. O'Rourke is directed to file a "balance-sheet" instead of a simple account of his means. Should Mr. Calcott's endeavours be successful, other creditors will, therefore, only have to wait in expectation of a dividend being declared, when they will be in time to prove their debts, if already placed upon the schedule.

Four men and a woman were last week tried at the Middlesex Sessions on a charge of having forcibly entered the well-known dilapidated houses in Stamford-street. They pleaded guilty, and alleged in extenuation that they had been employed by other parties to take possession of the premises. They were ordered to enter into their own recognisances to appear and receive judgment when called upon.

A solicitor named Younghusband, formerly in practice at Brighton, applied to the Court of Bankruptcy for his discharge. He was opposed on the ground of his having fraudulently appropriated a sum of £900, deposited with him by a Miss Bazalgette, formerly his client. The bankrupt had had transactions with the notorious Gandell, who it may be remembered was concerned in the matters which led to the frauds of Paul, Strahan, and Bates. The bankrupt had for some time delayed his client by paying her the interest of her money, which he pretended he had lent upon securities in the hands of his bankers. Upon his breach of trust being discovered, Younghusband absconded. The Court refused the order of discharge, and withheld appeal.

A German tramp named Schmidt has been apprehended upon a charge of having committed a murder at Kingswood, Surrey, for which another person named Franks narrowly escaped conviction some months since. The case against the prisoner appears to be that he stole from Franks a pocket-book afterwards found in the room with the body of the woman who was murdered. Schmidt is said to have confessed his crime.

Two men named Brooks, charged with having shot a policeman at Acton, were brought up at Hammersmith Police Court for final examination. A woman named Lake was placed at the bar with them. It was alleged that the woman had been seen in the act of destroying a hat of one of the prisoners after the murder, so as, it is supposed, to prevent identification. Some further evidence was adduced showing the male prisoners to have been seen running from the place after the commission of the offence, and upon this and the previous testimony the three were committed for trial.

## POLICE.

**ROBBERY OF A MANCHESTER BANK.**—Thomas Potter, described as a clerk, and who had been three or four weeks staying at Manchester as a commission traveller on his own account, was brought before Mr. Henry charged with being concerned with others in breaking into the Union Bank of Manchester, and stealing gold and silver to the amount of £1000 4s.

The robbery was committed between Saturday night and Monday morning last, when the thieves emptied the tellers' boxes. On Wednesday morning a telegraphic message was received at Scotland-yard from Captain Palin, the chief constable of police at Manchester, to the effect that two men, supposed to be concerned in the robbery, had taken the train at Stockport on their way to London. By direction of Sir Richard Mayne, Sergeants Langley and Clark awaited the arrival of the Stockport train at the Cluck Farm station. The prisoner came out of a second-class carriage with a portmanteau, which he handed to a porter. Sergeant Langley stopped him and asked him where he came from, and if he had any luggage. He said he came from Stockport, and had no luggage. Langley asked him if the portmanteau belonged to him. He said, "No." Langley then took him into custody, and told him the charge. He made no reply. He was taken to Scotland-yard, where the portmanteau was opened, and was found to contain £346, consisting of £35 in gold in a canvas bag, and the remainder in silver in three stockings.

Mr. Henry committed him to Manchester, to be examined before the magistrates of that town. The other man has been apprehended at Crewe, with about £100 in his possession, and the police are in search of a third confederate, who is supposed to have the remainder of the spoil. The prisoner was traced in consequence of a dispute with a cabman about a fare.

**STEALING BOOKS.**—William Snelling, a young man described as of no occupation, was charged before Mr. Tyrwhitt with stealing a book from the shop of Mr. Kimlin, bookseller, of 409, Oxford-street.

From the evidence of Mr. Kimlin it appeared that three times last week he observed the prisoner attempt to take books away from the shop window, and on the last occasion he informed him that if he repeated the act he would have him locked up. On the previous evening the prisoner paid him another visit, took up a book and fumbled it about as if to get it under his coat, and was then about to walk off with it, when he gave him in charge.

The prisoner said he accidentally passed the shop and took up the book to look at it, when, seeing Mr. Kimlin about to strike him, he dropped the book and ran away, Mr. Kimlin calling out "Stop thief!"

Mr. Tyrwhitt said he would remand the prisoner for a week to see if he was known.

**DRUNK AND MISCHIEVOUS.**—George Holmes, a young man, was charged with the following disgraceful outrage. Emma Haines, barmaid at the King's Arms, Stone-square, said that between four and five on Tuesday evening the defendant came into the house and called for a pint of beer. After he had been in a short time he took up a glass, and inquired of some of those around him at the bar whether he should throw it at the potman, and, without more ado, proceeded to do so. He was intoxicated, but it was not observed until he had been in the house some time.

Thomas Baldwin, potman at the King's Arms, said that he was cleaning the window of the bar when he heard the defendant inquiring whether he should throw a glass at his head, which was immediately followed by his doing it and breaking the window.

Mr. Arnold—Had you given him any offence?

Potman—Not the least. I never saw him before, and never spoke to him.

Mr. Arnold—I shall convict you of the assault in law upon the potman, and fine you £5, or commit you for two months. You have done, without the least provocation, a most mischievous and wanton act.

**UNDERMINING A BRIDGE.**—Joseph Shaw, a river apprentice, and Henry Brooks, were summoned before Mr. Ingham, by the Conservators of the Thames, for an infringement of their by-laws.

It appeared that the barge John was licensed for the dredging of sand in the river, and the conditions were that no sand should be obtained within 100 yards of a bridge, and not exceeding 30 feet on either side of the centre of the river. In consequence of complaints from the engineer of the Victoria railway-bridge that men were in the habit of dredging near the bridge, and likely to cause injury to the structure, rough, one of the river keepers, and his son, watched on the 21st ult., and saw the barge John moored off Battersea, and within fifty yards of the pier-head of the bridge, and the defendants were dredging for sand.

The defence was that the night was dark, and that they thought they were working at the proper distance from the bridge. Brooks also said that he had only been at work on the bridge a few days, and was ignorant of the law.

Mr. Ingham fined Shaw £3 and 2s. costs, and Brooks 10s. and costs.

**GROCER WINE MERCHANTS.**—At Bristol, Mr. William Fouracre, grocer, &c., was charged with having on the 8th of January sold one dozen bottles of sherry, he having a retail license, but not a license for dealing in foreign wines, whereby he had rendered himself liable to a penalty of £100.

The information was laid under the 6th George IV., cap. 81, section 6.

Richard Harris, supervisor of inland revenue, said—I know the defendant, and he carries on business at Haberfield-crescent, North-street, in the parish of St. Paul. He does not take out an excise license to sell spirits and beer, nor a license to deal in foreign wine. On the 8th of January last I went to his shop and asked for one dozen quart bottles of foreign sherry wine, but I did not see the defendant. I purchased the dozen of wine, and paid 36s. for the wine, and 2s. 10s. for the bottles. I produce the receipt given by the party of whom I made the purchase.

By the magistrates' clerk—Should not have laid any information if a less quantity than one dozen had been sold at one time.

This was the case for the prosecution. Mr. Barrow, after consulting with his brother magistrates, said that they had no doubt whatever, without imputing wilful fraud to Mr. Fouracre respecting the case, he did exceed his license; but, under the circumstances, the penalty would be as light as possible. He would be fined one-fourth of the sum to which he was liable—£25s.

Mr. Henry Pugh, grocer, of Union-street, was next charged with a similar offence, he having sold a dozen of sherry on the 7th of January. Mr. W. Hunt appeared for the defendant, and admitted the offence, but addressed the Court in mitigation. The magistrates awarded a penalty of £25s upon the defendant.

## CURIOUS DIVORCE CASE IN IRELAND.

A SINGULAR DIVORCE case was brought to a conclusion in the Dublin Consistorial Court on Saturday. Margaret Cody, a native of Cork, lived as a servant with an artist or painter, named Watte, in London. Watte had been married, but on his wife's death, in May, 1845, he married his servant, by whom he had several children, all of whom died except a daughter. He died in November, 1852, having willed to his wife the whole of his property, amounting to £18,000. There was litigation about the validity of the will, which, though it ended in the widow's favour, had a disturbing effect on her mind, and produced a fixed delusion that her late husband's friends were trying to murder her. Her mode of living in London gave striking proof of derangement. Although wealthy, she lived with her child in the most squalid and filthy state. The child was in a condition below that of the lowest beggar. Her conduct indicated extreme silliness. She would buy articles of no possible use to her, dresses of the most ridiculous character, and she lived with her child in only one apartment, which was in a filthy filthy state. She became apprehensive of being murdered, and was filled with the idea that her husband's relatives were pursuing her in London, with the design of murdering her; that cabmen and omnibuses men were in a conspiracy against her; and she had erected a building in the rear of her house, contrary to the terms of the lease, in which she hid and secluded herself for protection. She had iron shutters at the windows of this building, and bolts and bars at the door; and she explained that the object of the building was to protect herself from being murdered; that she feared the relatives of her late husband, Mr. Watte, were coming over the wall to murder her. In 1858 she went again to Cork and resided with her brother, John Cody, the person who originally presented a petition in Chancery for the purpose of having her declared a lunatic. From that period until the time of the ceremony which it was now sought to set aside, her conduct was observed by the persons who now made affidavit testifying to her state of mind. She expressed herself then in the same silly manner, and was affected by the same fears. She went to lodge in a house which she afterwards purchased, and procured, as a protector, a large dog, which she made sleep in the same room and in the same bed with herself and the child, and she then appeared satisfied that she would be safe. Having a large fortune at her disposal she used to give the child bank-notes to play with. Her conduct to the child was most extraordinary, for she continued to suckle it until it was six or seven years old, although recommended by a doctor. At last the dog, her protector, was gone, and she went to live at a place called Billinacragh, near Cove, Cork. There she was introduced to a sailor

named O'Connell, who had relatives in the town, and a scheme was concocted to get her to marry him, which was accomplished through the agency of a priest named Fitzpatrick, who got a dispensation from the Bishop to marry the parties in a public-house. Her dresses and property were then taken possession of by her husband's relatives, and a scene of riot was carried on for several days after the house of her marriage she was remarkably temperate; but when she came back on that day she still expressed her fears of being murdered. After a short time she fled to Cork, where she exhibited the same imbecility. She then went to London, and lived in the same squalid state as before, and used to buy immense quantities of fish, which were always wasted. In April, 1860, she returned to Ireland, and on the 23rd of June, the intervening time having been occupied by her relatives in an application in lunacy, the Chancellor issued a writ of *habeas corpus* to have the state of her mind ascertained. She was found to be a person of unsound mind since 1857, by a jury in the City of Dublin, who had her produced and examined. Mrs. Watte appeared to be unable to comprehend religious ideas, and no instance of her ever attending a place of worship was shown. That was the more remarkable fact, as she was a Roman Catholic. Her child was never baptised until Cody had it privately brought away and baptised without her knowledge. The affidavits having been read, Judge Battersby delivered judgment to the effect that the marriage was null and void, one of the parties not being of sound mind, and it having been effected by fraud and circumvention.

**SUSPECTED POISONING AT BRIGHTON.**—A most mysterious and suspicious death, that of a widow, aged forty-three, named Mary Ann Day, formed the subject of investigation on Monday night, before the Borough Coroner's Court, Brighton, the case standing adjourned for the evidence of Professor Taylor. The deceased was keeping company with a painter, named Sturt, and had done so for a considerable period; but a little jealousy seemed to have been mixed up with the courtship, for, according to his own testimony, they quarrelled five or six weeks since about a young man employed at the railway. That seemed to have blown over, and deceased and Sturt were to have been married in a month's time, and they went for their usual walk on Sunday morning. While out he gave her a mince-pie which he had purchased the previous night, and they went into a beer-shop where they had some ale. The landlady said to her, "Dear me, how ill you look; what's the matter?" Deceased said, "Nothing," and left with Sturt to continue to be, and reached home she became sick and got home, but before she reached home she became purging and violent pains throughout the day till about half-past ten in the evening, when a surgeon was sent for. Mr. George Geere attended almost immediately, but he found her dead. He made a post-mortem examination on Monday, which showed no tubercular or valvular disease, but revealed excessive congestion of the internal coat of the stomach, such a state, he said, as would be produced by some irritant poison, and which would account for the sickness and pains which had been described. He produced the stomach in a sealed jar, and gave his opinion that it should be submitted to some analytical chemist, for although he could say that the immediate cause of death was collapse and congestion of the lungs, the exciting cause was obscure, but he believed it was some irritant cause which was unnatural; at least, he never met with a case of natural death in which there were the same appearances. Another suspicious feature in the case was a statement of the deceased's daughter, that her mother told her her mince-pie was too hot for her throat; while Sturt, who declined to make a statement, said deceased while eating the pie said it was very nice.

## MONEY OPERATIONS.

OWING, in some measure, to the increasing complications of the Polish question, the transactions in National Securities during the week have been very limited, and the quotations have had a drooping tendency. Consols, for Money, have marked 92½; 4½, for March, 92½; 4½, for Long and New Three per Cent, 92½; Exchequer Bills, 100; India, 100; Sinking Fund, 100; 4½, for the Four per Cent, 100; 4½, for the Five per Cent, 100; and the Five per Cent, 100; the Debentures have sold at 100.

The demand for money for commercial purposes has continued very inactive; and in the open market, now that the Bank rates is reduced to 4 per cent, the following are the rates for the week:

Three Months	.. .. .	3½
Six Months	.. .. .	4
Twelve Months	.. .. .	4½

The Joint-stock Bank and Discount houses are giving 3 per cent for money at call, and 3½ per cent with seven days' notice.

The foreign exchanges are in favour of this country; hence there is scarcely any demand for gold for shipment to the Continent, and most of the arrivals are disposed of to the Bank of England, which now holds over £11,500,000 in specie.

The Council for India continue to sell bills upon the various Presidencies at the rate of twelve millions sterling per annum.

About £200,000 in gold has arrived from Melbourne and New York, and nearly the whole of it has been disposed of to the Bank of England.

The Confederate Government has succeeded in raising a loan of £3,000,000 in Paris and Frankfurt on the security of cotton to be delivered after the close of the war at 5d. per lb.

Greek Bonds have further declined in value to the extent of about 2 per Cent. Mexican, Spanish, Turkish, and Venetian Sea Securities are 7½; Brazilian Five per Cent, 100; Egyptian, 100; Dutch, Second Issue, 100; Dutch, First Issue, 100; Dutch, Third Issue, 100; Dutch, Fourth Issue, 100; Dutch, Fifth Issue, 100; Dutch, Sixth Issue, 100; Dutch, Seventh Issue, 100; Dutch, Eighth Issue, 100; Dutch, Ninth Issue, 100; Dutch, Tenth Issue, 100; Dutch, Eleventh Issue, 100; Dutch, Twelfth Issue, 100; Dutch, Thirteenth Issue, 100; Dutch, Fourteenth Issue, 100; Dutch, Fifteenth Issue, 100; Dutch, Sixteenth Issue, 100; Dutch, Seventeenth Issue, 100; Dutch, Eighteenth Issue, 100; Dutch, Nineteenth Issue, 100; Dutch, Twentieth Issue, 100; Dutch, Twenty-first Issue, 100; Dutch, Twenty-second Issue, 100; Dutch, Twenty-third Issue, 100; Dutch, Twenty-fourth Issue, 100; Dutch, Twenty-fifth Issue, 100; Dutch, Twenty-sixth Issue, 100; Dutch, Twenty-seventh Issue, 100; Dutch, Twenty-eighth Issue, 100; Dutch, Twenty-ninth Issue, 100; Dutch, Thirtieth Issue, 100; Dutch, Thirty-first Issue, 100; 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